Anti-drug campaign to start with cleanup of PNP

Story Below, Col. 3

Confusion at NLRC

By Martin P. Marfil

TOLERATED but still not accepted.

To impress on everyone how serious he is about reclaiming his old post, ousted National Labor Relations Commission Chair Rogelio Rayala yesterday made the rounds of the NLRC of-

CONFUSION/ A14

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Suspected organizer of Bali blast arrested
  WORLD /A9
- Bishop Fortich ailing
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- Erap plunder trial postponed yet again
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email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Tuesday, July 1, 2003 ★★★ 44 pages / 3 sections / vol. 19 / no. 203 P15 website: www.inq7.net

13 soldiers die in NPA ambush

Second highest number of casualties in 4 days

DAVAO CITY—Communist rebels killed at least 13 government soldiers and wounded three others in fierce fighting yesterday in the forested outskirts of a town in Compostela Valley province, military officials said.

At least one New People's Army guerrilla was killed and two soldiers were missing after the three-hour gun battle in New Bataan town, said Army Brigade commander Col. Rodolfo Obaniana.

About 80 soldiers encountered around 100 heavily armed guerrillas. The guerrillas withdrew but were pursued by soldiers backed by helicopter gunships, Obaniana said.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, chief public information officer of the Armed Forces, confirmed the number of casualties, but said their identities were not yet available.

Citing sketchy reports, Lucero said an Army unit from Bravo Company of the 60th Infantry Brigade ran into a group of communist rebels while on patrol in Barangay Pansabangan at around 1:30 p.m.

Southern Command spokesperson Lt. Col. Renoir Pascu said reinforcements had been sent to the area to hunt down the rebels.

The Macapagal administration has been trying to resume peace talks with the guerrillas amid continuing sporadic clashes.

This was the second highest number of casualties suffered by the military in four days. On Thursday, five soldiers and 11 militiamen were killed when rebels attacked and torched an Army patrol base in Oras, Eastern Samar.

The clash in Compostela Valley came less than two days after Mayor Joel Brillantes of Monkayo town in the province was gunned down inside a cockpit in Davao City. The assailant, Anacito Dejeto, was later killed by the mayor's security aides.

On Thursday, the rebels staged their biggest attack in more than a decade when about 200 New People's Army fighters raided an Army camp in Eastern Samar, killing 11 government militiamen, five soldiers and a soldier's wife, the Army said.

13 SOLDIERS/ A14

President has no choice on Cha-cha, says lawyer

By Dona Pazzibugan

JUST a matter of time.

The head of the Palace "study group" on Charter change said President Macapagal-Arroyo would likely take a direct hand in the movement to amend the Constitution.

Lawyer Camilo Sabio, former president of the Philippine Constitution Association, emphasized that he was merely giving his opinion, but he said Ms Macapagal has no choice but to participate in the amendment process.

"Under the Constitution, the President has no choice but to be involved in the process of Charter change," Sabio said in a statement he sent to the INQUIRER on Friday.

He said Ms Macapagal cannot ignore the crucial role played by the President whenever the Constitution is amended.

"With history looking down on her, President Macapagal-Arroyo could not stay aloof and be indifferent to the ongoing movements for Charter change.

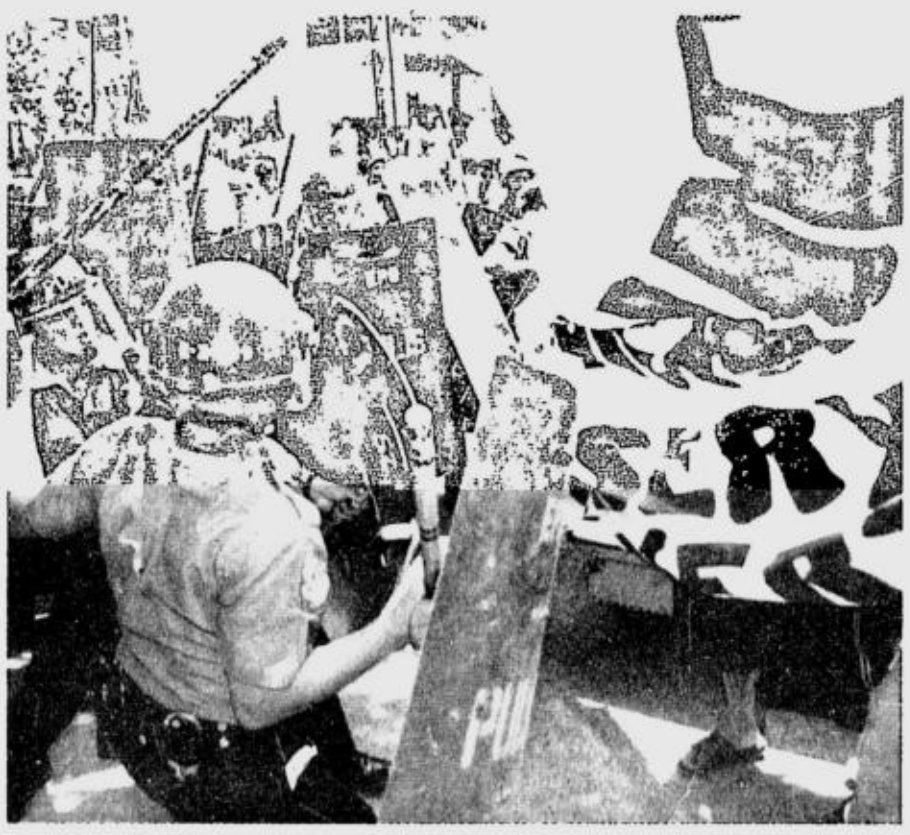
"Otherwise she could be guilty of dereliction of duty, and even of betrayal of public trust," Sabio added.

When reached by phone yesterday, Sabio said "it's just a matter of time" before the President becomes involved.

Sabio wrote the INQUIRER to dispute the statements of Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Joker Arroyo

PRESIDENT/ A14

PRESIDENT Macapagal is flanked by ADB president Tadao Chino and ADB chair Ibrahim Canakci during the 36th annual meeting of the ADB board of governors at the Edsa Plaza Hotel in Mandaluyong City. VAL HANDUMON



Outside, police clash with a militant group protesting the regional bank's policies near the ADB building in Mandaluyong City. JOAN BONDOC

HEPBURN at 28 in 1935. HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES

HEPBURN; 96

'Every actress in the world looked up to her'

OLD SAYBROOK, Connecticut—Katharine Hepburn, an icon of feminist strength and spirit who brought a chiseled beauty and patrician bearing to such films as "The Philadelphia Story" and "The African Queen," has died. She was 96.

Hepburn died Sunday at 2:50 p.m. (1850 GMT) Sunday at her home in Old Saybrook with family by her side, said Cynthia McFadden, a friend of Hepburn and executor of her estate. Hepburn, who had been in declining health in recent years, died of old age, McFadden said.

"Through her films generations to

'EVERY/ A12

HEPBURN, the Hollywood legend, at 74 in 1981.

Please go easy on the 'Boss,' PCGG told

By Carlito Pablo

TWO congressmen closely identified with businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco yesterday asked the Presidential Commission on Good Government to go easy on Cojuangco, who is in hot water for appearing in a controversial television commercial.

Their reason: The chair of San Miguel Corp. is part of the administration.

Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said the PCGG-initiated cases against Cojuangco were "still pending before the courts and he shouldn't be prejudged for mishandling SMC funds."

"In the meantime, don't rock the boat," Nograles said, noting that the Nationalist People's Coalition which Cojuangco founded is allied with the ruling Lakas-CMD. Lakas is co-chaired by President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia.

PLEASE/ A14

Loren, Tessie both vying for education committee

By Christine Avendaño and Michael Ubac

TWO women senators—Loren Legarda and Teresa Aquino-Oreta—are said to be gunning for the chairmanship of the Senate committee on education which was left vacant with the death of Sen. Renato Cayetano last week.

And while Legarda may have the upper hand in getting the post because she belongs to the majority coalition, the possibility that it may go to Oreta is not remote. Administration senators yesterday said the majority was willing to give to the minority bloc the chairmanship of one of two committees Cayetano left vacant.

Senate President Franklin Drilon is holding a special caucus of the majority on Thursday to discuss which of the two committees—education and ener-

LOREN/ A13

Drug war starts with PNP purge

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

APPARENTLY, the anti-drug campaign, like charity, begins at home. President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the Philippine National Police to clean house first—and fast.

"It has turned out that anti-narcotics units of stations, district offices and other PNP units are tainted," the President said. "The two most notorious illegitimate practices are turning arrested drug pushers and traffickers into milking cows, and reselling ... seized drugs."

Ms Macapagal did not elaborate, but said she had ordered a careful study and review of the performance of various drug-enforcement units.

She also ordered the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, which she had tasked with the lead role in the campaign, to crack down on the "tainted" PNP units.

"We will stop these practices to enforce basic discipline and lawful conduct at the ground level," she said.

The next priority, she said, would be for the authorities to "take on the sham drug tests that enable drug users to op-

DRUG WAR/ A14

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2003

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Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/07/01/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

MILF's Salamat to sit on peace panel

SALAMAT Hashim, chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, will serve as one of five rebel negotiators, once a date for peace talks with the government is set.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said the MILF had submitted its list of negotiators to the justice department, and that it included the name of Hashim, reclusive leader of the 12,500-strong Muslim separatist group.

Ople made the announcement after meeting with Malaysian Ambassador Mohammad Taufik and the government's chief peace negotiator, Eduardo Ermita. Malaysia, a member of the influential Organization of the Islamic Conference, has been helping to broker a peace deal with the rebels.

However, Ople said, the MILF should first ask permission from a southern Philippine court to allow the participation of Salamat, one of several MILF leaders charged in a series of attacks in Mindanao early this year, including a March airport bombing in Davao that left 21 people dead.

"The Davao court has jurisdiction over this case. It's the only one that can lift the warrants for arrest," Ople said. "The initiative must come from the MILF, through its counsel, to initiate proceedings."

He said the MILF should initiate proceedings, and the justice department would support the move. It would not be conducive to the talks if the MILF leaders felt they were under the "specter of mass arrest," he said.

Earlier, two senators joined the clamor for the lifting of the arrest warrants on Salamat.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. told reporters that Salamat could not be compelled to come out of hiding, much less head a peace panel, as long as there were standing arrest warrants against him.

No effort

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel pointed out: "No concrete effort has been taken by government to lift the bounties and the arrest warrants on Salamat and other MILF leaders."

He said the government should issue safe-conduct passes to the rebel leaders participating in the negotiations, in accordance with an existing safety and immunity agreement between the parties.

Even the Malaysian ambassador had previously urged Malacañang to drop the arrest warrants on Salamat et al. But Ms Macapagal rejected the request, saying the law should not be used as a "bargaining chip."

In any case, no definite date has been set for the resumption of talks, although officials are working to have them begin this month.

"We are hoping (the talks) could be over this year," Josita Andot, an official of the government peace panel, told Agence France Presse yesterday.

Last week, Taufik said the negotiations, to be hosted by his country, "could start within days," after the two sides reached conditions "conducive" to restarting talks following informal meetings.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu insisted this would happen only if the government complied with the rebels' demands for the withdrawal of military forces from captured MILF camps and the suspension of arrest orders against their leaders. He also called for ceasefire monitoring teams from Indonesia, Libya and Malaysia.

Andot also laid out conditions for the MILF to meet, including an indefinite suspension of hostilities. She said the government was likewise anticipating a "third-party (ceasefire) monitoring team" from Malaysia.

GMA warning

Though supportive of the talks, President Macapagal-Arroyo has repeatedly warned that the government will not let its guard down.

She has accused the MILF of stockpiling explosives for another bombing campaign, even while making peace overtures.

Kabalu said the rebels wanted an independent international body, including the United Nations, to look into the allegation and "put this issue to rest once and for all."

Ms Macapagal suspended the talks in May, after a series of bombings and raids on civilians in March and April that claimed dozens of lives in Mindanao. She blamed the separatists, and the government filed the charges against the MILF leaders. The rebels have consistently denied perpetrating the bombings, saying a "third force" was muddling the peace process. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Michael Lim Ubac; AFP*

'US solon's suggestion could inflame Moros'

By Carlito Pablo

THE CHAIR of the House committee on foreign affairs yesterday warned that a US state legislator's suggestion that Muslim terrorists be shot with bullets dipped in pig's blood and buried with pig entrails could inflame passions in Mindanao.

Rep. Apolinario Lozada Jr. (Lakas, Negros Occ.) said the suggestion carried in fliers distributed by Sen. Guy Glodis (Dem., Mass.) to his colleagues might "reopen the wounds of war between (Filipino) Moros and American soldiers."

"His action has placed the lives of American nationals, particularly the soldiers currently deployed in Mindanao, at risk," Lozada said in a statement.

The Islamic religion bars Muslims from eating pork and considers pigs unholy and dirty animals. Burying a Muslim with pig entrails and blood would deny him entry to paradise, many believe.

An American Muslim told the The Boston Globe, however, that the belief was not true.

Raeed Tayeh of the American Muslim Association in North America said, "This is ridiculous. It's one of those urban legends that keep being passed on. Muslims believe that God admits people to heaven based on their actions."

Glodis said the practice was carried out by US Gen. John Pershing against Filipino Muslims during the American pacification of Mindanao early in the 20th century.

"Our Muslim brothers would be reminded how their forefathers had fought the American cavalry with machetes, and were butchered in the end," Lozada said. "I'm afraid the wounds of this war would be reopened, no thanks to Senator Glodis."

GMA, PDEA like 'poison shabu' idea

By Christian V. Esguerra

APPROVED in principle.

This was Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency chief Anselmo Avenido Jr.'s response to the proposal to mix seized shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) with poison to keep the illegal substance permanently off the streets.

Avenido said President Macapagal-Arroyo herself was open to the idea proposed by the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) during the command conference on drugs held over the weekend in Malacañang.

The President, he said, acknowledged that mixing confiscated shabu with cyanide was an "innovative way" of dealing with the drug menace.

"In principle, the idea is good because people would think twice before recycling illegal drugs," Avenido told the INQUIRER.

Policemen and other officials are known to steal shabu confiscated as evidence and resell this in the streets.

"But the President wants the PDEA to carefully study the proposal. She fears that mixing shabu with poisonous substances might be harmful to the environment and to the people who would do (the mixing)," Avenido said.

PNP against

While the PDEA welcomed the VACC suggestion, however, the Philippine National Police rejected it.

Director Ricardo de Leon, PNP spokesperson, said law enforcement agencies should abide by existing legal procedures governing the destruction of confiscated drugs.

Illegal substances, he told reporters, are incinerated after samples had been taken in the presence of witnesses.

These samples are evidence presented in court, he said.

VACC chair Dante Jimenez on Sunday said the process of preparing the evidence was usually lengthy and tedious, allowing unscrupulous law enforcers to steal the shabu. By mixing it with poison, users would be more wary about buying it.

Senate President Franklin Drilon shot down the VACC proposal, however, calling on the PDEA to follow the law and burn the confiscated drugs within 24 hours.

"If no cases had been filed in court, there is a procedure to be followed," Drilon said. "If the case is in court, there is also a process and that is the drugs should immediately be burned."

To ensure the procedure was followed, he called on the PDEA to report to the Senate the total of illegal drugs confiscated, how much was in its possession and how much had been burned.

Drilon said he would ask PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane to submit such reports to his office.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina, meanwhile, vowed results in the renewed war against illegal drugs within three months.

Lina, chair of the Dangerous Drugs Board, made the promise during the launching of the anti-drug campaign in Central Visayas yesterday.

3 laboratories

In a speech in Cebu City, Lina urged the public to help the police by providing information on people involved in the illegal drug trade in their communities.

The PDEA in Cebu has been watching three suspected shabu laboratories in the city.

Lina and PNP Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay led the launch of the Regional Anti-illegal Drug Special Task Force headed by Chief Supt. Roberto Delfin, Police Regional Office director in Central Visayas.

The launch was held at the Mandaue City Sports Complex and was attended by at least 200 police and government officials in Central Visayas. *With Christine O. Avendaño and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Kintanar widow hits slow pace of probe

"I AM getting frustrated."

Joy Kintanar yesterday said police had yet to solve the murder of her husband, former New People's Army chieftain Romulo Kintanar, six months ago in Quezon City.

"The pace of the investigation is slow," Joy said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

She said she and her family were banking on admissions made by NPA spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal and Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA chair Jose Ma. Sison that it was the communist movement that had Kintanar liquidated for "crimes against the revolution."

"No one is focusing on the case," the widow lamented. She said this was in spite of the "full" cooperation and leads that the Kintanar family had given investigators.

Joy said Deputy Director Reynaldo Velasco of the National Capital Region Police Office earlier promised her quick results.

But Supt. Raul Medina, chief of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit, lead agency in the investigation, told the INQUIRER: "We are not (letting up). We are still looking for concrete evidence to identify the gunmen." *Alcuin Papa*

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Estrada plunder trial delayed yet again

WHAT, no sparks?

Yesterday's much-awaited hearing where defense lawyers were expected to start presenting evidence in the plunder case against ousted President Joseph Estrada merely ended in yet another postponement, this time to July 28.

But the lack of heated exchanges was made up for by courtroom jokes freely dispensed, mostly by former Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Manuel Pamaran.

"Justice delayed is justice pregnant," Pamaran, one of Estrada's four court-appointed lawyers, said in response to a complaint by special prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio that the defense had once again stalled court proceedings.

Presentation of evidence by the defense was initially set for June 2. This was moved to June 16, then June 30. Yesterday's session was to have been continued tomorrow, July 2.

Emerging from the uneventful three-hour session, Villa-Ignacio said Estrada's lawyers were not really keen on presenting evidence.

"I'm sure there will be another incident before July 28," Villa-Ignacio said. "That's the game plan—to postpone, postpone, postpone."

But during the hearing, Pamaran said the delay was "an incident of the proceedings" and should not be blamed on anybody. He added that the court could not ignore any motion, as this would constitute violation of due process. *Armand Nocum*

Bishop Fortich ailing

BACOLOD CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has asked the faithful to pray for Bishop Emeritus Antonio Y. Fortich who is being kept alive by a respirator at the Riverside Medical Center here.

"I am asking our people, especially my fellow Negrenses, to join me in praying for Bishop Fortich," said Ms Macapagal in a message relayed by her brother-in-law, Ignacio Arroyo.

Fortich's condition worsened last Wednesday when he stopped responding to people talking to him and showing any reaction to pain.

"His system appears to be failing," said Dr. Remedios Ortaliz, one of his physicians.

Msgr. Victorino Rivas, Fr. Greg Patino and other close friends were keeping watch over Fortich.

Fortich, who will turn 90 on Aug. 11, was confined in the intensive care unit of the RMC from April 28 to May 16 after complaining of difficulty in breathing.

Dr. Angel Araneta said they placed Fortich on a respirator after he lost the ability to breath on his own.

Fortich, a diabetic, suffered a mild stroke last November and was hospitalized for 10 days. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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PIATCO Should Not Receive Compensation.

The Government Cannot, and Must Not, Reward an Illegal Act.

1 Some people say that the Supreme Court decision was unjust because it never addressed the issue of compensation.

The Supreme Court did not address the compensation issue because Piatco did not raise it. Even in its motion for reconsideration filed after the Supreme Court declared the Piatco contract null and void, Piatco again failed to raise the compensation issue. After failing to do their job, Piatco and Fraport now portray themselves as victims.

2 Some people say that Piatco and Fraport did not deserve the Supreme Court decision, and that such a verdict strikes fear in the hearts of foreign investors.

Let's examine the heart of Fraport. In Lima, Peru, where it was operating the airport, Fraport made strong moves to monopolize the airport services until stopped by ASAEP, an association of service providers. In the European Union (EU), global airlines KLM, BA and Air France complained to the EU Commission about Fraport's predatory tactics. In the EU, Fraport did not only have a monopoly: it abused such a monopoly.

Now in the Philippines, the same monopoly is the issue. In the USA, Fraport and Piatco officials would have already been thrown behind bars for this crime. Here, such an act depends on the political will of the government.

But the predator is now acting like a tame house kitten.

The Supreme Court decision should strike fear in the heart of every foreign investor who would dare take advantage of the weakness of unscrupulous government officials, abuse our hospitality and secure for themselves privileges and concessions strictly prohibited by our Constitution and the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) law. The Supreme Court had no option but to uphold the rule of law. Is this not what the foreign investment community has been crying for—a stricter enforcement of our laws in order to guarantee transparency and maintain a level playing field?

It is important for the investing world to know that we are only interested in legitimate investors who are sincere and earnest in their intentions to partner with us and are morally upright and law-abiding in their actions. The Supreme Court decision is the best proof of the purity of our national intention and our common resolve to protect our national economy, patrimony and people.

3 Some people ask why the Government is not talking about compensation. Isn't this unfair?

In the Supreme Court decision, a temporary takeover by the Government, in the exercise of its "police powers" under a crucial time or emergency, merits no compensation. However, in the exercise of its power of "eminent domain," just compensation may be made. But neither Piatco nor Fraport has filed a claim for compensation.

4 Why has the Government not taken steps to make a just compensation?

The Government has asked for an audit to determine the fair and reasonable compensation to Piatco. But Piatco and Fraport have repeatedly and stubbornly refused to be subjected to an audit.

How can the Government be sure it is not paying for consultancy fees paid to Liongson and similar such consultants? How can the Government be sure it is not paying for padded expenditures like when the Government was overcharged by Wintrack for undertaking the subterranean clearing work? Is the refusal by Piatco a delaying tactic to give them ample time to clean up their books? Were the taxes paid on the Liongson fees properly withheld and paid as advised by Piatco lawyer Liwayway Chato?

Compensation is obviously a question that has to be subjected to legal tests. Meanwhile, it must be stressed that there can be no compensation without a prior audit.

5 Some people say the building is almost finished. Why did the Supreme Court wait for it to be almost completed before declaring the contract null and void?

From the start, Asia's Emerging Dragons Corp. (AEDC) had questioned the legality of the award to Piatco. But the corrupt previous administration simply ignored AEDC's plight.

While construction was ongoing, the MIA-NAIA Association of Service Operators (MASO) and other interested parties assailed the legality of the Piatco contract before Congressional Committees, media fora, the general public and President Arroyo herself.

However, it could not be resolved until the issues were brought to the Supreme Court. But, in its decision, the Supreme Court did take into consideration the fact that the building was already up.

Under our system of law and justice, we cannot allow criminal acts and other illegal conduct go unchecked. Nor can we gloss over the dishonest and fraudulent behavior of public officials and their conspirators simply because a project conceived in corruption had already been completed.

Justice Panganiban, in his separate concurring opinion, said that just compensation must be made. But what is "just"? Does the Government pay for the airport and the mall or only the airport? Is payment to be made over 25 years or in one lump sum? Is a congressional budget required?

Justice Panganiban further declared: "Erring officials must be prosecuted to the hilt."

6 What did the dissenting Justices say?

They did not necessarily disagree with the decision of their peers with respect to the merits of the case. They said that the Supreme Court should remand the case to the lower courts. But if it were remanded, a Supreme Court decision would even be more delayed. This would produce more complications.

7 When will the Supreme Court make its decision final and executory?

Hopefully, before President Arroyo goes to Germany in September. But some lawyers agree that the motion for reconsideration filed by Piatco did not bring to the fore any new issues, but only rehashed ones. So the SC decision should be forthcoming.

The Supreme Court has finally addressed vital economic issues that would affect the national interest for years to come. Particularly, it chose to speak against corruption and the negligence of Government functionaries in bidding out major infrastructure projects.

The Court chose to uphold the national interest, regardless of whether it would be popular or not. After all, their mandate is to find the truth, to judge fairly, and not to pander to the fleeting exigencies of the times.

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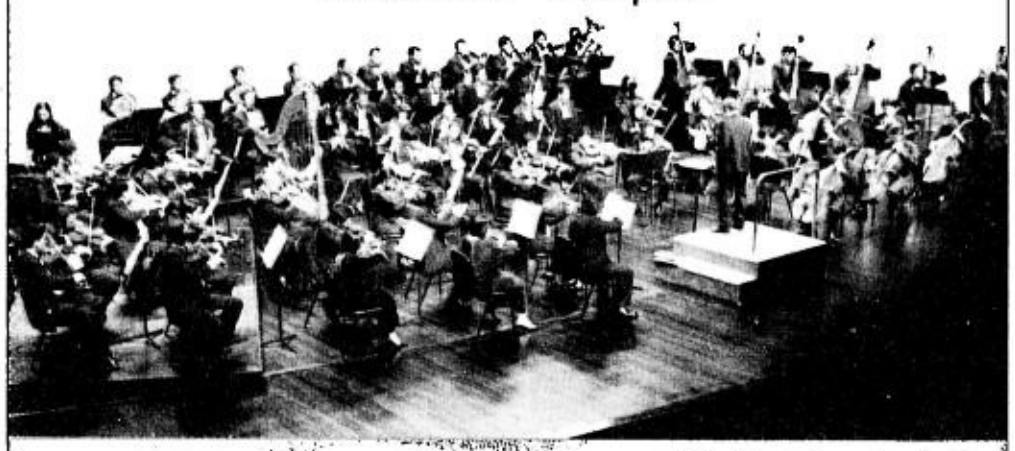

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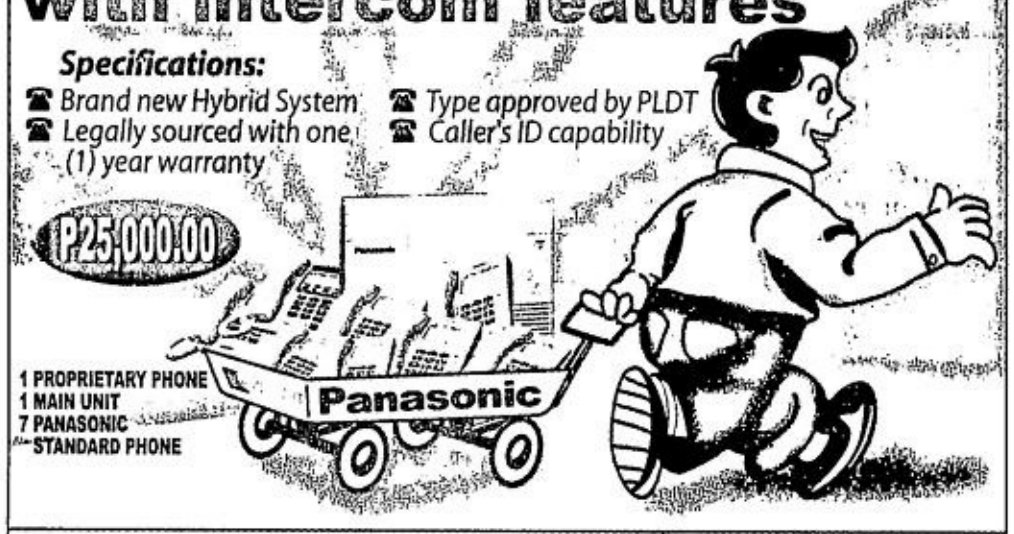

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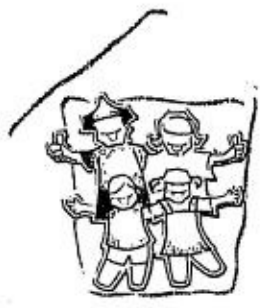

EFFECTIVE January 1, 2004, a new premium contribution schedule for the employed and Sponsored (Indigent) Sector of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation shall be implemented.

Below is the new contribution schedule for the employed sector:

Monthly Salary Bracket	Monthly Salary Range	Salary Base (BS)	Total Monthly Contribution	Personal Share (PS) (PS = SB x 1.25%)	Employer Share (ES) (ES = PS)
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2	P5,000.00 - P5,999.99	P5,000.00	P125.00	P62.50	P62.50
3	P6,000.00 - P6,999.99	P6,000.00	P150.00	P75.00	P75.00
4	P7,000.00 - P7,999.99	P7,000.00	P175.00	P87.50	P87.50
5	P8,000.00 - P8,999.99	P8,000.00	P200.00	P100.00	P100.00
6	P9,000.00 - P9,999.99	P9,000.00	P225.00	P112.50	P112.50
7	P10,000.00 - P10,999.99	P10,000.00	P250.00	P125.00	P125.00
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11	P14,000.00 - P14,999.99	P14,000.00	P350.00	P175.00	P175.00
12	P15,000.00 and up	P15,000.00	P375.00	P187.50	P187.50

Contributions from the public and private sector employers should be remitted **on or before the 10th day of the month following the applicable month** at any PhilHealth offices or through accredited collecting agents and their branches nationwide.

Failure to deduct and / or consequently remit the said premiums shall make the employer liable under the penal provisions provided in Article X of the National Health Insurance Act of 1995 (RA 7875).

Moreover, to ensure proper and immediate posting of employers' contribution payments, employers are enjoined to submit the Quarterly Remittance Reports textile format on or before the 15th day of the month following the applicable quarter.

For the Sponsored (Indigent) Sector:

Premiums for members of the Sponsored (Indigent) Sector shall also be revised from the annual rate of P1,188 to P1,200 per family effective for Enrollments and Renewals starting January 2004.

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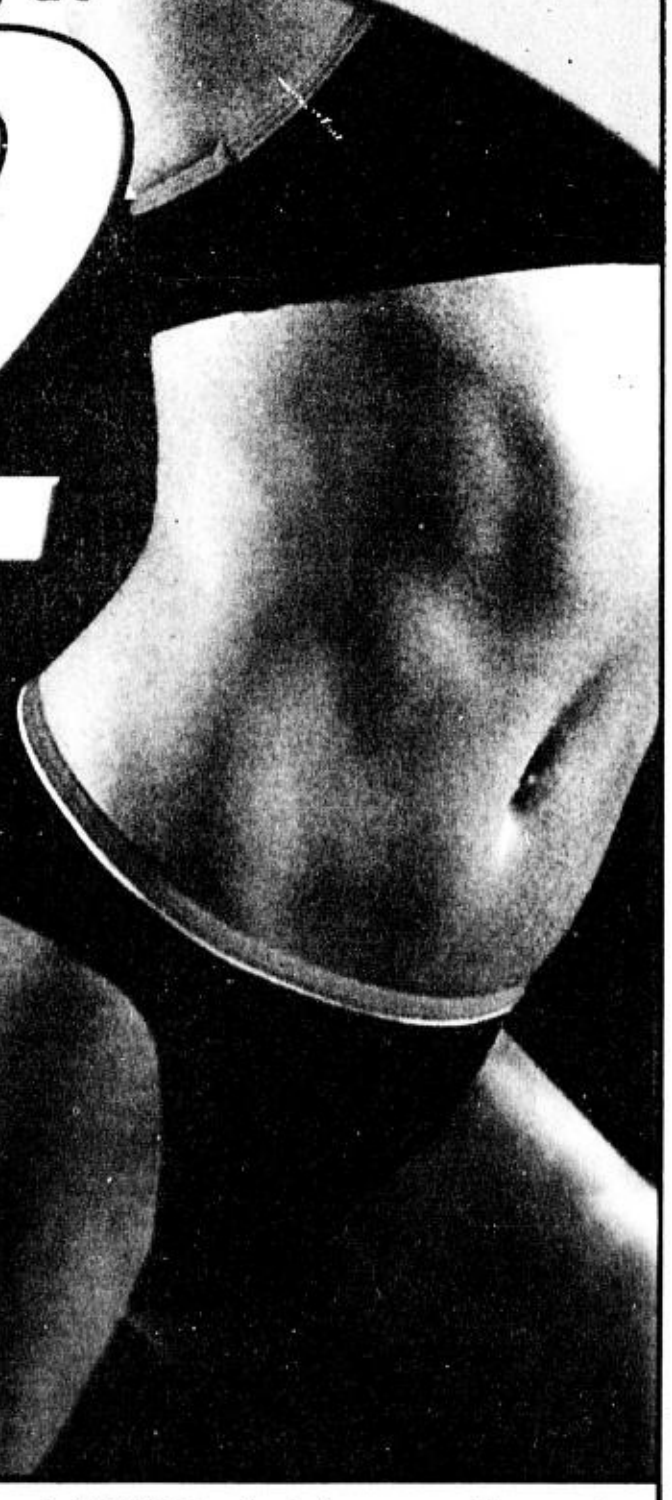

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Not yet ready

EDITORIALS

IT is well that Sen. Noli de Castro has not allowed recent surveys showing him leading the field of presidential aspirants to go to his head. He was recently quoted as saying that he believed now is not the time for him to run for president.

De Castro, who gained popularity as a broadcaster of the ABS-CBN radio and television network, at least has the humility to admit that he still has a lot to learn about the task of leading the country. "It is not a joke if you run for the No. 1 or No. 2 position," he said. He added that he needed to learn a lot of things and would rather complete his first term as senator.

He is unlike some other presidential aspirants who think that a few years in the Senate is enough to arm one with the experience and knowledge to run a country well. Those who would be president should know that a term in the Senate does not automatically transform one into good presidential material. Look at the country's experience with former Sen. Joseph Estrada.

The survey results showing De Castro leading the presidential race apparently demonstrates that the Filipino voters have not learned from the experience with Estrada. They will vote for a president on the basis of popularity and media exposure and not on the basis of character, ethics, vision, competence, courage and the other traits that distinguish a good leader.

De Castro, before he was elected senator, was virtually in the living rooms of TV viewers and radio listeners every day because he was the anchor of "Magandang Gabi Bayan." Now that he is senator, he remains a TV talent of ABS-CBN, unmindful, perhaps, of the ethical dilemma and conflict of interest that this places him in.

Having been in broadcast journalism for some time, De Castro should know about the adversarial relationship between government and media. Journalists are watchdogs and critics of government, so one cannot be a government official and a journalist at the same time. One cannot be respondent and judge or performer and critic at the same time.

Up to now, De Castro has not produced an outstanding piece of legislation or done anything in the Senate that would make people sit up and notice his work. Or, if he has done something outstanding, it must be a very tightly guarded secret; it has not been publicized—which is something strange because he himself is a communicator.

There are questions about De Castro as a potential presidential candidate. They may be asked when he declares that he is an aspirant. But for now we are glad that he has the humility and pragmatism to realize that he may not be ready yet for the highest position in the land.

Picking a president

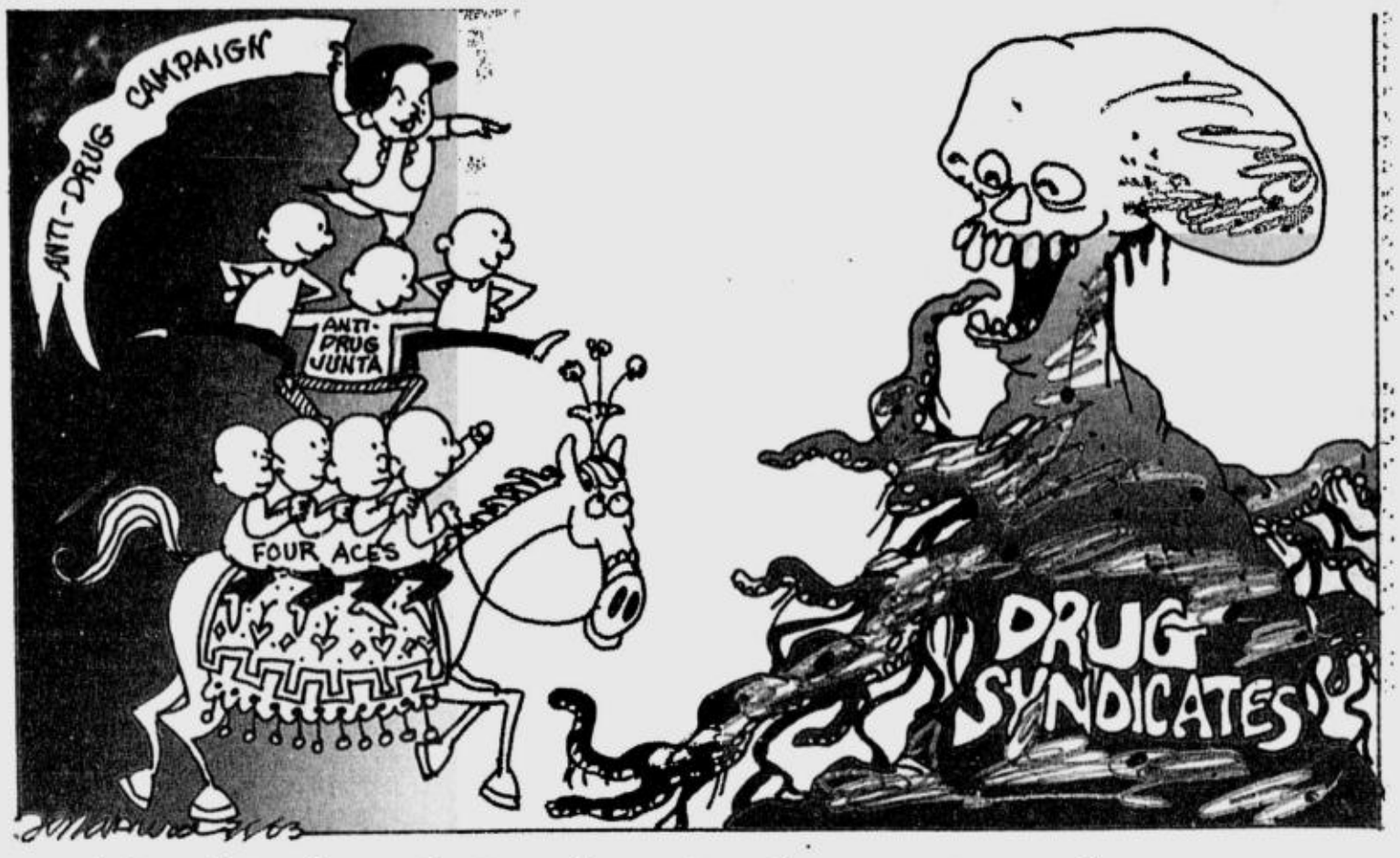
WHAT traits and qualities should we look for in a president? Perhaps it is time the voters started thinking on this matter this early before the rush to the 2004 presidential elections begins.

In the past five decades since the country regained its independence, few have been the times when the people chose their president well. There were the times, of course, when they had no choice, as when the death or the "constructive resignation" of the incumbent automatically put the vice president in Malacañang, or when a People Power revolt elevated a former senator's wife to the presidency.

In the case of Ferdinand Marcos, people believed the slick propaganda about a supposedly bemedalled war hero, an eloquent speaker, an intelligent legislator who would lead the nation to his vision of the Promised Land. Marcos did lead the nation—to perdition and penury and moral decline. But could the voters at the time have seen through the misleading propaganda about Marcos?

In the case of Estrada, the masses looked up to him as their redeemer, the man who had their interest at heart and who would get them out of the rut of poverty. Again, they were mistaken because, contrary to his promise—"*walang kalbigan, walang kumpare, walang kamaganak or anak na magsasamantala*" (I will allow no friend or family to take advantage of their relationship with me)—he favored his relatives, his mistresses and his cronies, to the prejudice of the masses.

If popularity, glamour and glitter and media exposure are going to be the yardsticks again for choosing a president in 2004, are we doomed once more to a repeat of the Marcos Phenomenon or the Estrada Experience? Will we as voters ever learn?



LRTA chief explains but is shown 'smoking guns'

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ADMINISTRATOR Teodoro Cruz of the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) sent a letter denying the exposé by Roberto Gualberto, deputy manager of the Metro Manila Light Transit Consultants (MMLRTC), regarding the purchase by the LRTA of a P175-million rail grinding machine and the P43-million Management Information System (MIS), which exposé was quoted in this column.

"There is no 'overprice' of the P175-million rail grinding machine," Cruz wrote, "because the equipment has yet to be purchased. There is no anomalous transaction to speak of in the first place because the deal has not yet been consummated.

"As a matter of fact, the transaction is still being processed and has still to pass through several stringent stages...Mr. Gualberto could be hallucinating when he claimed there was such a machine purchased by the LRTA."

COMMENT: No, Gualberto is not hallucinating. The rail grinding machine is real. In fact, it is already here. Cruz approved its acquisition, and documents in my possession prove it.

Cruz himself may be the one hallucinating, or trying to pull my leg when he sent me that letter where he does not tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

You want people to believe you, you must always tell the whole truth or you would be like the boy who cried wolf. No person wants to be lied to, and that includes me. That was naughty of you, Mr. Teodoro Cruz.

Here are the smoking guns:

A June 9, 2003 letter of Makoto Awakihara, project manager of Sumitomo Corp., supplier of the rail grinding machine:

"2. The Rail Grinding Machine, as you may have been aware, is now at the Manila Port awaiting extraction after we received the certificate of Tax Exemption from your goodselves."

Another letter from the same person dated June 6, 2003:

"Subject: LRT 2 PL Depot Project
"Rail Grinding Machine
"Dear Sir,

"The above-mentioned equipment, which arrived at the Manila Port last May 8, 2003, is still at the storage in a customs bonded warehouse, pending the payment of the required import duties..."

There is a letter, dated Sept. 11, 2002, to Administrator Teodoro Cruz Jr. from Masaharu Takano, project manager of MMLRTC. It describes two rail grinding machines from two suppliers and their quoted prices. In the end, the letter says:

"In view of the above, it is recommended that lowest priced equipment is accepted and that a suitable variation order in the amount of Peso 103,078,946.63 is issued. All payments for the rail grinding equipment should be made at the contract exchange rate."

Below it is the approval by Cruz with his signature:

"Concurred by Atty. Teodoro B. Cruz Jr., Administrator/Project Director."

Among the documents furnished me by the present LRTA were letters of Moises S. Tolentino Jr. to Administrator Antonio San Juis, Cruz's predecessor, stressing the need for a "more reliable grinding equipment because the rails are already 'degraded' and have to be 'grinded.'"

But these rails are for Line 1 (the Monumento-to-Baclaran line) and not for Line 2. Line 2 rails won't need any grinding for five to six years. So why is Line 2 already buying a grinding machine? Even assuming Line 1 needs it because its old and overhauled grinding machine is not performing very well, why does not Line 1 purchase it instead? Why is it being charged to Line 2? Isn't this cheating?

On the Management Information System (MIS), Cruz wrote:

"With regard to the P43 million MIS, the LRTA has nothing to do with its bidding. The agency was never involved in the bidding process. It was Sumitomo Corp. of Japan, the winner of the Package 1 contract, that bidded out the system. It was the responsibility of Sumitomo to subcontract or bid out the package's components, and one of these components is the MIS."

COMMENT: Administrator Cruz and his cohorts cannot evade reasonability for this rigged bidding which favored one of three bidders—Reach/Delta Bridge, Meco Industries, and Easy Net Services Inc.—which were actually interrelated and had only one address at the 34th floor of RCBC Plaza, Tower 2, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. The LRTA as project owner has the sole authority to approve or disapprove recommendations for the purchase of equipment or provision of services by project contractors and consultants. Cruz is a lawyer and he knows the power and authority of the LRTA over contracts. He signs for the agency.

The bids were overpriced by about $613,074 based on an independent canvass to determine the fair market value of equipment and software that were to be bidded out. The canvass was a requirement because the MIS contract was a provisional sum acquisition, i.e., no actual market price was available to determine prices before the three-quotation rule was applied to select a supplier.

Cruz was told of the overprice by Gualberto and the former promised, "I'll watch it."

In spite of this knowledge, Cruz did not keep his promise and approved the recommendation to award the contract to Reach for $1,387,280 or P43,030,743.53 which is in excess of the P40—million budget limit.

Transformations

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government and the coconut farmers have a point. If Danding Cojuangco wants to put out ads to boost his presidential bid, he should do so with his own money, not with theirs. That is to say, he should **not** use San Miguel Corp. money, which is not his. The government and the coconut farmers have a 47 percent claim to it. It's SMC that's currently paying for the ad where Cojuangco explains why he is changing the name of La Tondeña Corp., a subsidiary of SMC, to Ginebra San Miguel Corp.

I wish the PCGG and the coconut farmers well in their demand for an accounting, but my own beef with the ad goes beyond Cojuangco's use of public and corporate money to push a personal agenda. It has to do with the ad itself. The first time I saw it, during a break in the PBA semifinals, I was astounded by its cheekiness. It wasn't that Cojuangco was campaigning this early, though one could, and should, remonstrate with that too. It was the subliminal message the ad was beaming.

In the ad, Cojuangco explains in wonderful Tagalog how Ginebra, the most popular gin in the country, turned from something that used to be hawked in obscure sidewalks to the respectable commodity it is now. And how the Filipino came to embrace it as his own, the product, like a true friend, keeping him company and giving him cheer over the years. That is the reason SMC decided to change the name of the company producing it to Ginebra San Miguel Corp, to toast its success.

Beneath the surface, the ad suggests two things.

First is that the story of Ginebra is the story of the Filipino himself. That is not such a bad idea, even if, unlike his favorite drink, the Filipino did not turn from living a seedy existence to living a respectable one. He lives seedily to this day, not least if he is a coconut farmer, who has to make do with gin when he cannot produce *lambanog*. But if the success of the Ginebra basketball team is anything to go by (it continues to draw a tremendous following notwithstanding that Robert Jaworski has left it and it doesn't win games; talk of *walang iwanan*!), Filipinos do identify with the product in ways that go beyond brand loyalty. They imagine it to be a distillation (pun liberally intended) of their life, with all its macho impurities. The notion of a "Barangay Ginebra" is by no means wispy. Ginebra is more than a gin, it is a community.

The second suggestion is where Cojuangco treads on thin ice. There are two variations here. One is that he pretty much did the same thing to SMC, turning it from a company that had been reduced to hawking goods in obscure corners to a company that has recovered its strength and pride. The story of Ginebra then is not unlike the story of SMC itself under his leadership. Alternatively, the ad suggests that it is the story of his life. He is a self-made man, a rags-to-riches fable, not unlike Lucio Tan, who also likes to peddle himself as someone who turned his *bote-dyaryo* livelihood into a multibillion-peso business empire. The success owes to tireless and honest labor, the very thing the average Filipino engages in every day, which the product extols.

The ad ends with Cojuangco saying, "*Danding Cojuangco po, para sa Barangay Ginebra.*" This with much humility and respectfulness, honored Filipino values. It's powerful stuff, not unlike the gin itself, which seals the bond between Cojuangco and his audience, and makes him spokesperson of the national community, aka Barangay Ginebra.

Cojuangco's use of corporate funds to advertise himself is just adding insult to injury, or frying the public, as represented by the PCGG and the coconut farmers, in its own fat. The real injury is to be found in the ad itself.

The truth, of course, is the exact opposite. There is nothing rags-to-riches about Danding Cojuangco, other than in the metaphorical sense of the word rags. If he got where he is now, it is not by honest labor, even if his contribution to the national pillage was arguably tireless. He was one of the few cronies who had to flee with Marcos after February 1986 to avoid being torn limb from limb, not completely metaphorically, by an irate people. That was how closely associated he was with him. Lucio Tan at least managed to remain in the country, though with some public opprobrium.

Curiously, in this country, the principle in reinventing oneself, or at least in escaping an unsavory image, is not so much to deny it as to claim the very opposite. What does the trick is not lying big, it is lying outright.

The only comparable cases I can think of are Ernesto Maceda's and Ping Lacson's. Maceda had the misfortune to be labeled by the late great Arsenio Lacson as "so young and so corrupt," and the label stuck. He unstuck it by turning himself into "Mr. Exposé," the scourge of corruption and evildoing. And almost incredibly, he managed to make the new label stick. No one remembers "so young and so corrupt anymore," everyone remembers "Mr. Exposé."

Just as well, Lacson has the misfortune of having been Erap's hatchet man, and in that capacity was associated with all the unsavory, and patently illegal, activities of the former president. He has been accused of murder, drug peddling, extortion and pillage, among others. To counter this, he projects himself as the country's only genuine crime-buster, scourge of the criminal rich, ally of the victimized poor. That at least is what his premature campaign ads (they are most assuredly so) say.

Of course, like Cojuangco's campaign ads, they still have to prove its worth. But the two ads, or attempts at deception, can always count on one thing.

Filipinos forget, for reasons that do not always have to do with drinking gin.

The still unreported Senate report

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

EARLIER I reported that last June 5, before Congress adjourned, Sen. Joker Arroyo noted the "mystery" of why Committee Report No. 66 remained uncalendared more than a year after the Senate committees on public order and illegal drugs, defense and blue ribbon wound up their investigation. CR 66 is said to recommend the investigation of Sen. Panfilo Lacson by the Department of Justice for alleged involvement in drug-trafficking, kidnapping and other crimes. Arroyo said it was increasingly difficult to defend the Senate against the charge that its members are covering up for one another. Sen. John Osmeña agreed with Arroyo, stressing that Majority Leader Loren Legarda ought to explain the "mystery" of the unreported report.

* * *

Writing to "enlighten" this column, Legarda denied that she was protecting Lacson (various quarters have alleged that she's doing so because Lacson had invited her to be his running mate). Her account of CR 66's fate in the hands of the senators is a classic study of the interaction between human dynamics and vested political interests. She said that on three occasions the majority attempted to calendar it for plenary debates, but these were questioned by the minority "on procedural grounds." In a way her account reminded me strongly of how vital cases have languished for years in our courts due to "procedural and technical" matters.

* * *

Legarda stressed that from the moment CR 66 was filed with the bills and index section of the Senate on June 3, 2002, it "ran through the ordinary course of queuing," up to the time she presented a motion on July 31, 2002 in plenary that it be calendared for ordinary business. Immediately afterwards, however, Lacson raised a parliamentary inquiry, stressing that while majority of the members of the Barbers committee had signed CR 66, the defense committee failed to get majority of its members to sign it. Legarda said that after conferring with Lacson, Barbers agreed to withdraw the report from the calendar, pending inquiry into this failure to get enough signatures, and accordingly, she withdrew it.

In the meantime, the Barbers committee rerouted CR 66 to all the member senators, refiling it on April 24, 2003. On June 05, 2003, said Legarda, Barbers "manifested readiness" to sponsor it, but again it was stalled when Sen. Aquilino Pimentel noted Lacson's absence. On June 6, Sen. John Osmeña again raised a parliamentary inquiry.

Up to now CR 66 remains unreported, and there are efforts in the Senate to bring "warring senators" Lacson and Barbers together to "bury the hatchet." Conceivably this would mean further delay in the calendaring of CR 66, but considering its import in today's political scene, doing so could only damage the chamber's reputation further.

* * *

Lacson was quoted as opining that there is no need for CR 66 any longer, since he has been "cleared" by the Ombudsman on charges made by former anti-narcotics agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong. Curious, I checked out that statement with sources at the Office of the Ombudsman, and they said there could not be any clearance yet since the cases have been pending since former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's time up to now.

Lacson had earlier asked for an injunction with the regional trial court to stop the justice department from acting on those cases against him, and he got a TRO. But in the Macapagal administration, former Solicitor-General Simeon Marcelo's office went up to the Supreme Court to seek the lifting of the TRO, and the SC ruling is still being awaited. Desierto deferred the resolution of those cases until the SC's resolution of that TRO, and based on information furnished by the Ombudsman's records section, there is no clearance for Lacson yet.

* * *

At the necrological services for the late Sen. Rene Cayetano, the press noticed that only seven senators out of 22 showed up. Majority of the senators were abroad, though a handful who were in the country didn't show up. The highest Senate official present was Majority Leader Legarda, who was joined by Minority Leader Vicente Sotto and Senators Rodolfo Biazon, Noli de Castro, Joker Arroyo, Ralph Recto and Francis Pangilinan. The latter four senators belong to the neophyte bloc in the Senate of which only Sen. Manuel Villar was absent.

* * *

The media found it quite curious that the two top officials, Senate President Franklin Drilon and President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier, were both in Australia, together with Sen. John Osmeña, on the invitation of its parliament. In the back of some minds was the question of whether protocol didn't dictate that one of them should have stayed behind to preside at the necrological rites for their fallen comrade, which the Australian Parliament would have understood. Drilon returned last Saturday to catch up with the funeral in Pateros, but the necrological service was the official Senate activity. Also curious was the absence of Cayetano's seatmate and close friend, Sen. Robert Barbers, who was in Surigao, as well as Sen. Edgardo Angara, once a colleague of Cayetano at Accra Law office, who was said to be in Baler. In fact it was not lost to observers that there seemed to be more former senators than incumbents, among them ex-Senate Presidents Jovito Salonga and Ernesto Maceda, and ex-Senators Leticia Shahani, Santanina Rasul, Raul Roco and Heherson Alvarez, as well as former and incumbent House members.

* * *

Those who wish to avail of the reprint of Sen. Salonga's article in Kilosbayan, titled "How to Delay the Plunder Trial and Incite Chaos, Erap Style," may call up the Kilosbayan office at 534-5873 and 534-5868. Reprints in book paper cost P5 and those in newsprint P3.

Living diversity

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WE were having an exercise on leadership and change. Asked to choose a partner at random, I paired off with Hajiya Bilkisu, another journalist among the 26 International Family Planning Leadership Program (IFPLP) fellows, who is from Nigeria. The exercise required each pair to turn their backs on each other and make five changes in appearance.

When we turned to each other, I found that Bilkisu, aside from taking off her shoes or loosening her collar, had changed the style of her headgear. When we were next asked to make five more changes on our persons, I found that Bilkisu, with a few folds and sweeps, had altered once more the way the cotton scarf covering her head was styled. A devout Muslim ("Hajiya" is a title borne by women who have made the "haj" or pilgrimage to Mecca), Bilkisu keeps her hair modestly covered. But the way she or another Nigerian fellow, Dr. Clara Ejembi, styled their headgear, the practice of keeping one's hair under wraps seemed more fun and fashion than a religious obligation.

Another Nigerian fellow, Amina Garba, a government official, seemed to prefer more conservative wear than Bilkisu or Clara. Unlike the two women's elaborately knotted scarves, Amina preferred a veil draped simply over her head and covering her shoulders. But she told me, as we chatted on the bus on the way to the Monteray Bay Aquarium, that in fact she felt quite uneasy in the outfits she had donned for our American stay. "At home, I usually wear all-black and long-sleeved outfits," she said, gesturing at the colorful embroidered gown she was wearing. Apparently, eschewing her dark, floor-length outfits at least temporarily while she was in our company was Amina's way of blending into the environment.

* * *

BUT simply by virtue of their religion, or even just their names, some of the fellows had a most difficult time "blending in," not in this time of post 9/11 hysteria in the United States and the reign of the Homeland Security Department which at the time of our visit had just declared the mainland under "orange alert."

One of our fellows, a Sudanese university professor named Osama, was delayed for two days after being stranded in Cairo and Germany due to visa problems and being detained and questioned upon landing in San Francisco.

These days, it would seem hazardous indeed for anyone who wants to travel abroad, especially in the West, to carry the name "Osama." The trouble is that Osama is a fairly common name among Muslims, it being the Arabic word for "lion." After the attack on the World Trade Center, even more boys have apparently been named "Osama," since Osama bin Laden is viewed not as the villain he's been portrayed by the Western media, but rather as a hero in the cultural war against Western imperialism.

Another fellow, a doctor from Pakistan, traveled to the US in his *kameez shalwar*, the traditional Pakistani garb consisting of a long cotton tunic over loose pants. This may have been the reason, aside from his Pakistani passport, that authorities detained him for three hours upon his arrival at the San Francisco airport.

A woman fellow from Burma (Myanmar) was also detained for questioning. But as she tells it, she and the security officer talked about nothing more than recipes for "curry," which the officer thought was a common dish in their country.

* * *

LIVING, studying and working with people from six other countries brings home not just the cliché about how people are essentially the same despite differences in race, religion and culture (which is true), but also how these differences can make interactions spicier, more textured, less predictable, though of course fraught at times with tensions and uncertainties.

Every day, at the end of our sessions, we would sit around and toss observations and complaints about how the day went. The most common complaints revolved around the food. "More rice!" was a frequent request, especially from us Asian fellows. But the African fellows would often chime in with requests for mashed yam and even boiled barley, another lesson right there on diversity.

Though the caterers tried their best to meet our demands, they couldn't quite satisfy everyone in such a diverse group. The Nigerians began toting around bottles of spice, sprinkling these on everything on their plates, even the desserts. At the very first opportunity, all five of us Pinoys in the group hankering for the flavors of home chowed down on *kare-kare, bangus* and *inihaw na baboy* at a Pinoy eatery in South San Francisco. And though the cooking left much to be desired, to our homesick palates, one bite was enough to transport us back to good old 'Pinas.

* * *

HERE'S to the IFPLP Batch 2003 fellows, then. Here's to Mustafa, who loved to tease the feminists in our group with his caustic comments about the "natural" superiority of men, but who betrayed his soft side with his honest remarks about terribly missing his wife and two daughters.

The Ethiopian women—Meaza, Bosena, Yeshi, Mulu and Wuleta—were quite a revelation, being outspoken and assertive. During the "Spider Web" exercise at our ROPES course, after two men volunteered to be group leaders, Wuleta turned to her Ethiopian sisters and said "this can't be right, we need women leaders, too," and immediately volunteered to head the last group.

Throughout the three weeks of our fellowship, the fellows from Burma made for a largely quiet, unobtrusive trio. Only toward the end would we hear about the extraordinary courage it took to be part of civil society in Burma at this time of a renewed political crackdown. And it was their plea for continued support from the rest of us that reduced many of us to tears when the time for parting came.

Meralco replies

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IN REPLY To my article, "Thanks, but no thanks" (PDI, 6/24/03), here is our star utility company's answer. The over-all title of the 15 items with odd names like "Missionary" is "unbundled rates." It was approved May 30, 2003 by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), that delightful government agency that apparently always says "yes," at the end. (What do we know of the ERC and what perks do they have? Meaning, who pays their electric bill? I, for one, wouldn't care much about any of my utility bills if some office paid for them.)

To be fair, the approval by the ERC took three years and 55 public hearings participated in by 18 organizations and interested parties and resulted in Republic Act 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) of 2001. Not that it did us any good. The "unbundling" or itemization complies with Section 36. And yes Meralco is the power distribution company; the rest are government and power suppliers or power generating firms.

Prior to this "unbundling," we only saw three items of Meralco's bill: Basic Charge, Cera and PPA. What your bill will show is what goes to Meralco and what Meralco collects "on behalf of suppliers, generators of electricity and the transmission company." Meralco collects the Distribution Charge, Metering Charge, Supply Charge and Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment.

The distribution charge is understandable. The supply charge refers to "rendering service to customers," i.e. billing, collecting, customer assistance (the office that's always busy when you dial their number especially if there's a typhoon and a brownout), and associated services, whatever those are. Why it's necessary to place your office and janitorial staff under a different heading isn't clear. Like if you went to the parlor or the barber shop you don't get a separate bill for water and electricity and the interest the owner is paying the bank.

As for the currency exchange rate adjustment, I don't understand why there has to be an adjustment since we pay our bill in pesos and not in dollars. If, on the other hand, it refers to the company's repayment of foreign loans, someone smarter would have to explain to me why we as consumers are involved in that.

Now the rest of your bill: Generation Charge, Transmission Charge, System Loss Charge, Universal Charge and Franchise Tax don't go to Meralco, according to Elpie Cuna, Meralco vice president for corporate communication. He doesn't say who they go to, but dare I surmise they go to that bottomless pit of a government, the only growing industry in town that provides jobs for all and sundry who can't find jobs anywhere else. If they do go to the government, I guess there's even less hope of redress. You know and I know that the government has never been able to tighten its belt, not that we in the private sector noticed if they did. Did your friendly senator and congressman take fewer trips abroad? Are they now driving second-hand vehicles? Do they have fewer bodyguards? Don't' bother to answer.

It turns out that the supplier happens to be that other failure of a company, the National Power Corp. I say failure because it is another government corporation that's losing money as usual. I think they've been trying to privatize it but haven't found any takers. Wonder why? Can it be that whoever buys it must take on its bureaucracy?

But the Napocor isn't the only one around. There are as well the Independent Power Producers (IPP). Lord knows how many of those we're saddled with.

Then there's the Transmission Charge that goes to the National Transmission Company (TransCo) which, lo and behold, is also part of the Napocor. It's an entirely different company, it seems, even if it was "spun off" from the mother company. Presumably it has its own hierarchy and staff that needs to be paid monthly salaries and perks.

The System Loss Charge has been passed on to consumers by Republic Act 7832. Supposedly the losses are due to technical and non-technical reasons but the long and short of it is that we're burdened with it by law. (Does this mean that if someone steals electricity it gets passed on to us?) This doesn't go to Meralco but to our wonderful democratic government. I don't know which agency but I have a feeling it's the Napocor.

Now for the Franchise Tax which also gets passed on to us. This consists of 2 percent of gross revenues that goes to the government and 0.5 percent up to .75 percent to local government units. My question is, why are the consumers paying for the tax rather than the company that's got the franchise? You wanna bet the ERC approved that too?

And finally you've got the Universal Charge that goes to, who else, but the government. It is remitted to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. created by Republic Act 9136, when we weren't looking I suppose. Wouldn't you like to know who's running it and why?

And those dear, long-suffering Filipinos appear in your bill as the Missionary Electrification and Environmental charges. Maybe someone would like to explain why it needed a whole new corporation to collect them.

But you get the general idea. You get your bill, you pay it.

Paint-brush

YOUNG BLOOD

Ladylou D. Sepe

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

"HOW could she not let me teach?" I raged inside my head as I left her office that morning. I just could not understand my principal. My brains would calcify if I didn't have anything to do for the summer.

I teach grade-school children in a big, private university. I love my job and I love the school where I teach and the people I work with. And yes, the school pays well.

Late last March I got an invitation from another school to teach conversational English. This school was offering a refresher course for those who wanted to be professional care givers abroad. I would be teaching in modules and classes would be held at a time I found convenient. I understood that my students would be bank employees, nurses and teachers like myself. I found the job very challenging, and the next day, I went to our principal's office to tell her, as a matter of courtesy, that I was accepting the invitation. Ours is a tiny city, and she would have known about it from someone else anyway.

"No, it is not okay if you teach," she said in a tone that conveyed the futility of further argument. "The school is paying you to have a rest and enjoy the summer."

I gathered myself up and left her office fuming. I went straight home and slept forever. I completely lost track of time. One time I got out of bed, intending to have my lunch. I wondered why it was so dark and quiet at home. It was one in the morning. And this went on for ages.

One day, I finally caught lunch on time. I was still pissed about not being able to teach, but I was able to sleep the kind of sleep I needed. I charged my cell phone and read the messages. One was from my co-teacher two days earlier and it said: "*Sweldo na*. Where are you?"

The other one was from Mimay, one of my co-teachers who is very close to me. She had texted: "*Ano ba yan, Lady. Mag-paint kana kasi*. You know, you have it *talaga*." She was hammering on this painting thing again. Could you believe this woman?

I got my salary and bought a really good tube of watercolor, paintbrush and heaps of drawing pads. I felt stupid. My insecurities were magnified by the fact that I have a friend who is a very good painter, a genius. She already had an exhibit in a gallery and has a website where her works are on display and sold for thousands of pesos. I am talking about P30,000 plus, and that's serious money. She could probably sell a painting to Van Gogh himself! And here was an uneducated and awkward me getting into the picture.

To recollect, there were times back when I was still a kid when the school sent me to a drawing contest. I don't remember if I won or lost, but I thought my pieces sucked big-time. There were times when my classmates ogled at my drawings, amazed by how faithfully I had copied drawings from a book. But what's the fuss? They were digestive and skeletal systems, for the life of me! Still there were times when I locked myself in my room in deep concentration, working with my pencil and paper.

But I wasn't into it anymore. Demands of work, lack of confidence in myself, little time to spare, I guess. But my eyes never failed to recognize colors, lines, hues and feelings in paintings. It was there all the time. I could stay in galleries and exhibits for hours, staring at masterpieces and wishing with all of my heart that I could do even just a little of what they did. And I thought I was wishing for the moon.

That one summer day I unpacked the things I had bought from the bookstore, took a dipper of water, locked my room, put on a smooth CD and started to work. I let all of my feelings, my joys, sorrows, lust, insecurities, dreams, hopes, laughter, anger, beliefs, questions, convictions, confusion flow into the colors that I mixed, taking the lines and contours of the girl, woman, queen, hooker, player, bitch, mother that I was painting. The colors united in their own diversity. I couldn't stop them. They dominated me, like the wind that whips up the widest ocean, sending waves crashing on the shore. They followed the rhythm of a heaving heart until they clashed, exploded and conquered the silver lines of the shore.

I was exhausted when I called it a day. My tears rolled in pure joy at seeing my work. I had the most peaceful sleep in many months.

The next day, I showed Mimay what I had done on my first night. She wasn't surprised. She just kept saying, "*Sabi ko na nga ba eh!*"

It was me who was still in shock. I still couldn't believe it. I was a bit embarrassed by the oohhhs and aahhhs of my friends. I didn't know how to handle their praises because it was the first time I was hearing them (it is a different feeling from getting compliments after drawing the human digestive system in grade three). They asked if I went to art school. I told them I was uneducated in art. When they said it was beautiful, I could only nod in agreement. How could anyone deny something like that?

It's wonderful to have been blessed. Imagine going through life without knowing and believing you have something in you. What if I didn't discover it? What if it was just there, lying dormant, screaming to come out, but I never noticed? What a big loss that would have been on my part.

As for my painter friend, well, different folks, different strokes! My insecurities were baseless.

Late one afternoon, I marched to the principal's office with my small collection of paintings and showed them to her like a preschool kid showing her drawing to the teacher.

"Oh, how beautiful they are!" she exclaimed. I smiled. "See? If I let you work, would you have been able to paint these? Oh, look at the colors! How long have you studied art?"

I shook my head and smiled, though my insides were bursting with pleasure. I told her I was there to thank her for slowing me down.

As she continued to examine my work, I looked at every line on her face, reading every single message it was sending sans the words. She was sincere. And that was enough for me.

She mentioned something about sending my pieces to an international exhibition. And it didn't end here. There were other lines laced with sugar that just melted in the air.

I gathered myself up and left her office, smiling. I went straight home and painted and painted, totally losing track of time. One time I put down my paint-brush, intending to eat something. I didn't wonder anymore why it was so dark and quiet. Meals can be taken at four in the morning!

Ladylou D. Sepe, 25, owes one to her friend Mimay. She sketches caricatures of her friends, believing that's her calling.

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Popularity no guarantee of good public service

LETTERS TO THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OUR Constitution provides for the qualification of our public officials. As a Filipino citizen and a registered voter of our country, I appeal to fellow Filipinos and registered voters that we should vote for candidates based on their qualifications and not on popularity. Popularity is not a guarantee that we would be getting a good public servant. Let us exercise our right of suffrage by voting for a qualified candidate based on his/her educational attainment and accomplishment, track record and not just his or her popularity.

Government employees who aspire for managerial positions have to have a masteral degree to be qualified for the position or they must pass the standards set for that position. We should require much more of those who would be senators of the republic or a president. Should they not also be required to have at least reached a specific level of academic achievement?

My answer is yes. Let them have the required academic qualifications before they seek the people's mandate. This will prevent the pollution of our public service with ignoramuses.

Congress should now amend our Constitution to define the qualifications of a senator. Let us not waste the people's time and money voting for unqualified and non-performing public officials in future elections.

He or she may not be a lawyer but they must be able to show to the Filipino people that they are qualified to be legislators. Be they in the administration or the opposition, the bottom line is, will they become good lawmakers? Elections are fast approaching and this time we must vote wisely and intelligently so that people power will never again become necessary and our country's leaders will once again be respected as one of the best in Asia and in the world.

—LOPE D. ACILO JR.,
Financial Services and Data Center,
Office of the Assistant Governor,
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

No turf war between DDB and PDEA

THIS refers to your editorial cartoon last June 27, 2003 which shows two caricatures representing the Dangerous Drugs Board and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency fighting over turf in the campaign against illegal drugs. It would seem that there is an error in the identities of the characters in the editorial cartoon.

For the record, we would like to inform you that there is no such infighting between the DDB and the PDEA. Under the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 or RA 9165, the DDB is the policy and strategy-making body in the campaign against illegal drugs, while the PDEA is the implementing arm under the DDB.

—EFREN Q. FERNANDEZ,
undersecretary and executive director,
Dangerous Drugs Board, 5/F Champ Bldg., Anda Circle, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila

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Made in the Philippines: Psywar

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE FUROR in the United States set off by a state senator suggesting that corpses of Muslim terrorists be buried with pig entrails reminds us that many of the Americans' psywar tactics were developed in the Philippines.

Guy Glodis, a member of the Massachussetts state legislature, had suggested following the example of the American general John Pershing in his anti-Moro military campaigns in Jolo, back in 1913. Supposedly, Pershing buried Moros with pig's blood and entrails, as a stern warning to other Moros that they would suffer the same fate. The use of the pig was based on the Islamic prohibition on the consumption of pork, and the perception that the pig is an unclean animal. If true, the Pershing story would be an early example of American psywar tactics.

Strangely, while the Pershing story keeps cropping up, the reliable website www.snopes.com classifies it as another urban legend. The website notes that there is no historical record of Pershing ever having used this pork carcass gimmick. There is one account in a book entitled "Jungle Patrol," published in 1938, saying that a Colonel Alexander Rodgers had buried "all dead juramentados in a common grave with the carcasses of slaughtered pigs." "Juramentado" from the Spanish juramentar, to take an oath, referred to Muslims who would wage a personal jihad or holy war against Christians. Supposedly, Rodgers' tactic "resulted in the withdrawal of juramentados to sections not containing a Rodgers," prompting other officers to make similar moves. In one area a slain juramentado would be beheaded and the head sewn inside the carcass of a pig.

A book with a title "Jungle Patrol" suggests the accounts are probably sensationalized. Nevertheless, the stories do tell us how people look into the possibilities of using their enemies' culture to wage war.

While Pershing's psy-war tactics have never been confirmed, those of General Edward Lansdale are well documented. Lansdale believed in psyops or psychological operations and honed his skills here in the Philippines, where he served as the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)'s chief operative in the early 1950s, working with the Philippine government's campaign against Huk rebels in Pampanga and other Central Luzon provinces.

In his memoirs, Lansdale wrote: "To the superstitious, the Huk battleground was a haunted place filled with ghosts and eerie creatures." One of his favorite psywar stunts was to plant stories among local residents that the Huk areas were infected by vampire-like *aswang*. After spreading these tales, they would ambush a Huk patrol, silently snatching the last man in the group, killing him and puncturing his neck with two holes. The victim would then be hauled up by his heels and drained of blood. The corpse would be left on the trail and, when discovered by his comrades, rumors would spread rapidly about an *aswang* attack, demoralizing the Huk squadrons.

Another Lansdale psywar tactic was what he called the "eye of God," where government troops would identify villages known to be sympathetic to the Huks. At night, the psywar teams would creep into town and paint an eye on walls facing the houses of suspected sympathizers. The notion of an all-seeing malevolent eye was supposed to have been "sharply sobering."

Lansdale's Philippine adventures apparently impressed the American military establishment, who then asked him to design similar plans for Vietnam. An example of one such operation was the hiring of North Vietnamese astrologers to write up predictions about coming disasters to communist leaders, and to predict unity between the south, ruled by a pro-US government and the north, ruled then by Ho Chi Minh and the communists. Throughout the Vietnam war, even after Lansdale had gone, the military continued to capitalize on people's traditional beliefs for psywar. One example was "Operation Wandering Souls," where helicopter-mounted loudspeakers were used to blare wailing voices in war zones, supposedly coming from the spirits of fallen guerrillas.

Lansdale went on to plan psyops against Cuba's Fidel Castro, one proposal involving the dissemination of rumors that Castro was the anti-Christ and that a revolt was necessary now that Jesus was returning. Lansdale concocted an "elimination by illumination" plan to announce Christ's coming, with a proposal to fire phosphorus shells into Havana's skies. The scheme—harebrained if you ask me—was never implemented although the "shock and awe" operations of the US against Iraq seem to be a secular rehash of the Cuban plan.

In 1964, the US Army commissioned a strategy paper called "Withcraft, Sorcery, Magic and Other Psychological Phenomena, and Their Implications on Military and Paramilitary Operations in the Congo." The paper discussed the use of "counter-magic" tactics to suppress rebels, using witch-doctors, charms and magic potions. While terrorizing the enemies with threats of sorcery, the psywar proposals also involved strengthening the morale and confidence of their own troops, convincing them they were invulnerable to magic.

Snopes, the urban legend website, notes that the pig entrails story has gone around many times on the Internet, suggested for use in Israel against the suicide bombers and, after the 9/11 bombing of New York and Washington, against Muslim terrorists. There have been proposals to put a baby pig on every airline flight to deter suicide terrorists, or shipping 100,000 pigs into Afghanistan.

I'm skeptical about the effectiveness of these psywar tactics. If anything, the proposals only show another kind of "superstition" on the part of the planners themselves. By oversimplifying their enemies' culture—believing for example that Muslims are that fearful of pigs—the psyop planners betray their own anxieties and fears when confronting cultures they cannot or do not want to understand.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Suspected Bali blast organizer falls

JAKARTA—Police said Monday they had arrested one of the top organizers of last year's Bali bombings as he was preparing more terrorist attacks with a gang of fellow al-Qaida-linked militants.

In Bali, meanwhile, prosecutors recommended to a court that an Islamic militant known as the "smiling bomber" be sentenced to death for his alleged role in the bombings. It was the first sentence demand for those being tried over the attack.

The newly arrested suspect, Idris, topped the police's list of most-wanted suspects in the Oct. 12 Bali bombings that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists.

"He has confessed to his entire role in the bombing," Bali police chief Maj. Gen. I Made Mangku Pastika said. "This is a very important arrest."

The arrest appeared to be a major victory for Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim country, in its fight against Islamic militancy. The United States renewed its travel warning for the country on Friday, saying terrorists may be planning new attacks on US targets.

Pastika said Idris, who like many Indonesians uses only one name, was part of a gang that robbed a bank in Medan city, Sumatra island, last month. The money was to be used to fund an unspecified terror operation, he said.

Idris has been flown to Bali for questioning, top detective Lt. Gen. Erwin Mapasseng said.

Idris and 10 other alleged members of the gang, who have all been accused of being members of the regional Islamic militant group Jemaah Islamiah, were arrested June 12 in Medan, police said.

Jemaah Islamiah has been blamed for the Bali bombings. Many of the 34 suspects arrested over the blasts at two nightclubs have admitted to being members of the group—including one who fought alongside Osama bin Laden.

Jemaah Islamiah's goal is to establish a pan-Islamic state across Southeast Asia and the group has been accused of planning a series of other attacks on Western targets across the region, including Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines.

More than 100 suspected Jemaah Islamiah members have been detained in Southeast Asia.

The group's alleged spiritual leader, Abu Bakar Bashir, is on trial in Jakarta on treason charges and over a string of church bombings on Christmas Eve 2000.

Prosecutors have accused Idris of being part of the group and serving as the deputy to Imam Samudra, the alleged mastermind of the Bali bombings. Samudra is one of three bombing suspects already on trial.

Idris—who uses the aliases Joni Hendrawan and Gembrot—allegedly attended many of the key planning meetings for the Bali attack and handled most of the group's logistics.

He also stands accused of providing Bali suspect Amrozi bin Nurhasyim with the money to buy bomb-making materials and was with him when he bought the mini-van used in one of the bombings. *AP*

PROSECUTORS demand the death penalty for Bali bombing suspect Amrozi. AFP

Gaza Strip opened to traffic after handshake by Israelis, Palestinians

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—Israeli and Palestinian commanders shook hands Monday, bulldozers dismantled checkpoints and Palestinian traffic flowed freely in the Gaza Strip—the most significant sign of disengagement after 33 months of bloody fighting. But one man was killed in a Palestinian shooting.

In line with a US-backed peace plan, Israel pulled troops out of northern Gaza late Sunday, and agreed to withdraw from the West Bank town of Bethlehem on Wednesday. And in another reflection of the bid to end 33 months of fighting, the sides' prime ministers—Ariel Sharon of Israel and Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority—were to meet in Jerusalem on Tuesday, Palestinian sources said.

Several Palestinian militant groups announced a suspension of attacks against Israelis on Sunday. But the first full day of truce was marred by the killing of a Romanian truck driver on an Israeli construction crew. The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a militia affiliated with Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility.

Even before that, both sides were skeptical the ceasefire will hold, having been disappointed so many times before—and a dispute loomed over Israel's demand that the Palestinian Authority dismantle the militant groups altogether.

But there was also a first glimmer of optimism as Israeli troops pulled out of Beit Hanoun, which had seen most of its farmland razed by Israeli bulldozers.

"You were late," Mohammed Shabat, 65, pointing to the destruction, told Palestinian policemen who took over the Israeli positions. "But, God willing, we will bring this town back to the old days."

"This is a very important and serious step by the Israeli side toward the implementation of the road map," said Palestinian Information Minister Nabil Amr. And Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath said Israel should withdraw from all West Bank towns within six weeks. "Things are promising and we must seize this moment," he said. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

US forces storm Iraqi towns

CAMP BOOM, Iraq—A massive sweep that has already netted at least 60 suspects in 20 lightning raids across central Iraq entered its second day Monday, as US forces tried to capture Saddam Hussein loyalists and curb a wave of attacks on American soldiers. The raids by the 4th Infantry Division and Task Force Ironhorse troops which began early Sunday came as the US civilian administrator of Iraq said US forces must kill or capture Saddam so he can no longer be a rallying point for anti-coalition attacks. *AP*

Concerns over Suu Kyi's health

RANGOON—Concerns for Burmese democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi's health emerged Monday as she marked one month in detention amid growing calls for the military government to release her. The British government has said that the 58-year-old National League for Democracy (NLD) leader is being held in a two-roomed hut at the notorious Insein jail without even a change of clothes. A close family friend of the feisty opposition leader, who is typically immaculately dressed with flowers worn in her hair, said he was confident she would remain in strong spirits despite the harsh conditions. *AFP*

Holding back doesn't preserve sperm

MADRID—New research suggests there is little value in couples abstaining from sex to improve their chances of conceiving by saving sperm for the woman's most fertile time of the month. In a study to be presented Monday at a European fertility conference, Israeli scientists provide the strongest evidence yet that for men with low sperm counts, holding back for longer than a day or two can significantly reduce sperm quality. They found that in men with normal fertility tests, the performance of the sperm remained the same whether they abstained from sex for one, two or 10 days before providing a sample. *AP*

Wanted: 2,000 US troops in Liberia

ACCRA, Ghana—West African leaders are asking that the United States contribute 2,000 troops to a peace force for warring Liberia, and want US President George W. Bush to decide before he makes his first African visit next month, diplomats said Monday. The proposal being discussed would have West African nations give 3,000 troops for what would be a 5,000-strong force to separate forces of Liberian President Charles Taylor and rebels, international officials familiar with discussions on such a force said, speaking on condition of anonymity. *AP*

Military plane crashes in Algeria

ALGIERS, Algeria—A military plane crashed in a residential area west of Algiers on Monday, causing an unknown number of casualties, national radio reported. The crash occurred near the Boufarik military airport, 40 km west of the capital. The radio report referred to "numerous victims," but no other details were given. The Moroccan news agency MAP, citing unidentified official sources, reported that the crash of a C130 Hercules transport plane killed several victims on the ground. *AFP*

Journalists, pastor get 15 years

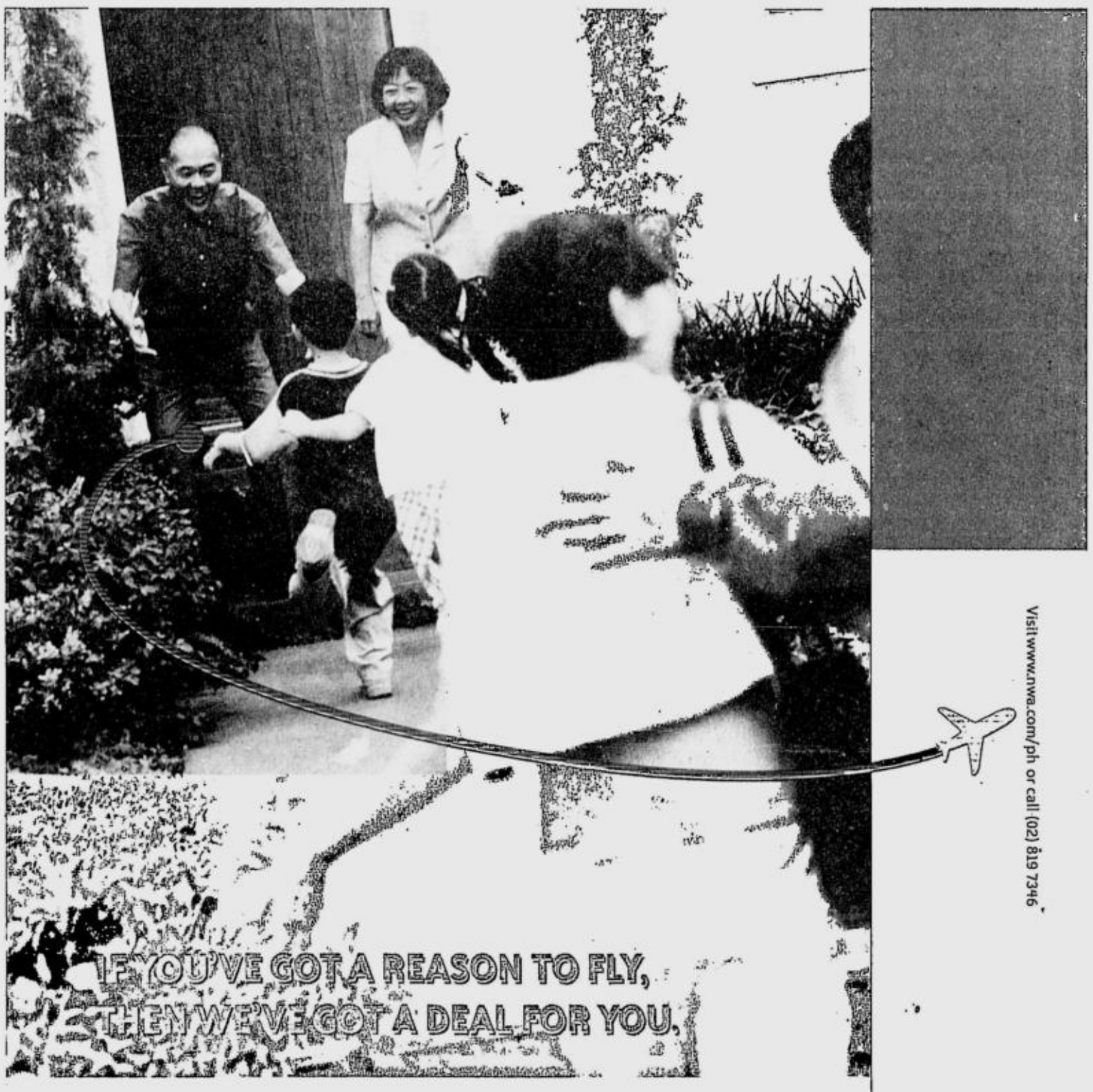
BANGKOK—A Laotian court on Monday sentenced two European journalists and an American pastor to 15 years in jail each in connection with the slaying of a village security official, family sources said. In a trial lasting about two and a half hours in the northern Laotian town of Phonesavanh, the three men were convicted of two charges—obstructing police work and illegal possession of a gun and an explosive device, said the sources who attended the trial. French cameraman Vincent Reynaud, Belgian photojournalist Thierry Falise and the Rev. Naw Karl Mua, a Hmong-American pastor, received the sentence immediately after being convicted. *AP*

More brain power needed

LONDON—Mandarin speakers use more areas of their brains than people who speak English, scientists said on Monday, in a finding that provides new insight into how the brain processes language. Unlike English speakers, who use one side of their brain to understand the language, scientists at the Wellcome Trust research charity in Britain discovered that both sides of the brain were being used to interpret variations in sounds in Mandarin. "We were very surprised to discover that people who speak different sorts of languages use their brains to decode speech in different ways; it overturned some long-held theories," said Dr. Sophie Scott, a psychologist at the charity. *Reuters*

Erratum: It's N. Korea, not N. Norea

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the banner of the main story should have read, "N. Korea ready to test nuke by end of year, says analyst," and not "N. Norea ready to test nuke . . ." So sorry for the wrong spelling.



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Criminal case filed vs dismissed BIR exec

CEBU CITY—A criminal case has been filed against a high-ranking officer of the Bureau of Internal Revenue who was ordered dismissed from service for accumulating millions of pesos in unexplained wealth.

The Office of the Ombudsman-Visayas filed charges of falsification of public document against Nieto Agad Racho before the Regional Trial Court for failing to declare in his Statements of Assets and Liabilities and Net worth (SALN) that he had P5.8 million in bank deposits.

The criminal charges were filed last Friday, three days after the OMB-Visayas released the order dismissing Racho from the service after he was found guilty of the administrative case of dishonesty.

Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas Primo Miro also ordered Racho, head of the Special Investigation Division of BIR-Cebu City, to be permanently disqualified from holding public office.

If found guilty, Racho will face a jail term, ranging from six years and one day to 12 years, with a fine of not more than P5,000.

Racho's name figured in the three-part special report of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) on BIR officials leaving in luxury, that saw print in May.

But the OMB-Visayas started its investigation on Racho in 2001 based on the complaint lodged by dyHP Balita Action Team of Radio Mindanao Inc. over Racho's alleged unexplained wealth. Racho was then the revenue district officer of the BIR's Cebu South District Office.

The investigation, among others, uncovered that he had deposits in three banks amounting to more than P5.8 million that were not reflected in his SALN.

In April last year, the Visayas Ombudsman ordered the BIR regional office to submit certified true copies of Racho's SALN. None reflected Racho's immense wealth.

The items, which were allegedly not declared, included Racho's savings deposit of P2.93 million with the MetroBank Cebu Tabunoc Branch, bank accounts of P1.22 million with the Philippine Commercial International Bank and a Gold savings account of P1.63 million with the Bank of Philippine Islands.

But Edgardo Labella, Racho's lawyer, planned to ask the OMB-Visayas to reconsider its decision to dismiss his client, saying there were matters that were "overlooked" by the anti-graft office.

These included the absence of a complainant and the failure of the OMB-Visayas to show original certification from three banks that his client had millions of pesos in deposit.

Labella had until Thursday to file his motion for reconsideration.

Ombudsman director Virginia Santiago said the documentary evidence showed that Racho's bank deposits were not reflected in his SALN.

"(Racho) failed to disclose an important fact, that is, his true bank deposits, (when) he has the legal obligation to do so," she said.

Santiago also refuted the claim of Labella that his client did not invoke his right to remain silent during the preliminary investigation in November 2002.

"In this instant case, respondent (Racho) was present during the hearing, but he invoked his right to remain silent," Santiago pointed out. *Suzzane B. Salva, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Lawmaker dares gov't to conduct drug tests on top gov't officials

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla has dared the administration to conduct drug tests on top ranking government officials and their children.

"If we want to have a drug-free label, we must start with the families of our top-ranking officials," said Padilla, a congressman of Nueva Viscaya.

He said there have been reports that children of some officials in the executive and legislative branches of government are using illegal drugs.

One of them, he added, is the son of a "very high-ranking official."

"We have to convince the people that it is not just them we are subjecting to the difficulty of drug tests," Padilla said.

He cited drug tests conducted on drivers when they apply for licenses as well as the random drug tests on students.

Padilla expressed reservations about drug testing all students because it would be an additional expense, especially to the poor.

The congressman also pointed out that the government should not resort to extra-judicial measures in cracking down on illegal drug syndicates.

"The fight against illegal drugs should be imbued with the lofty respect for human rights and the law. It should not be used as a convenient cover for ugly partisan politics," said Padilla, who was in Bacolod City on a personal visit.

Padilla said the warning was relevant in the light of the track record of the "Four Aces" composed of former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, Senator Robert Barbers, former Col. Rey Jaylo and former Maj. Lucio Margallo.

The four, who have been tasked by President Macapagal Arroyo to lead in the fight against drugs, were former members of Manila's Western Police District, who had employed strong-arm tactics against drug syndicates in the 1990s.

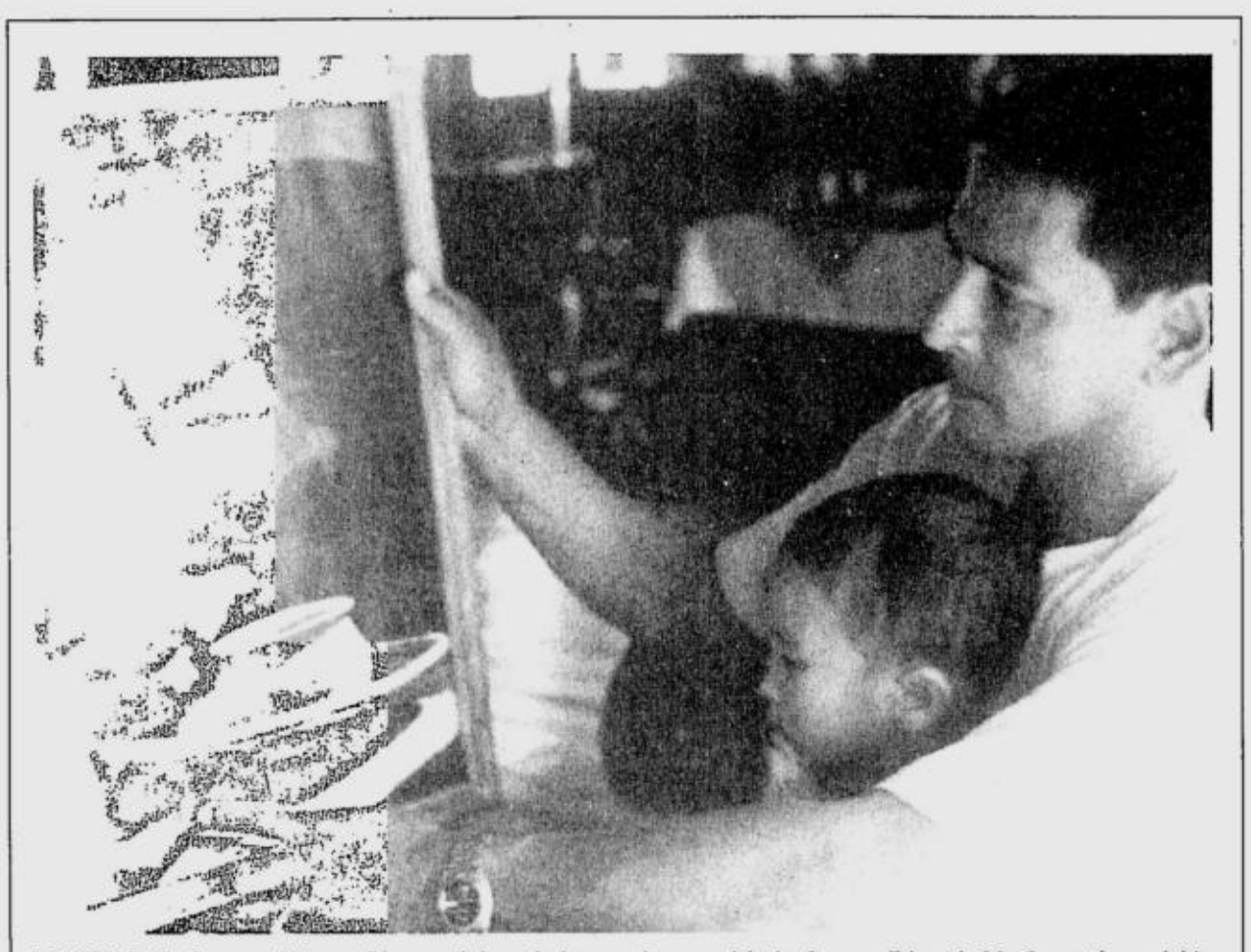
Padilla said law enforcers in the anti-drug campaign might be tempted to become "extra zealous," which, in turn, could lead to extra-judicial acts against suspected drug pushers.

"In the effort to produce early and dramatic results, the campaign may [ride] roughshod over basic human and constitutional rights. This is the last thing the campaign needs," he said.

Padilla said President Macapagal should show her support by providing adequate funding to the anti-drug campaign, instead of playing the role of "drug czarina."

Of the P140 million allocated in the 2003 national budget for the anti-drug campaign, Padilla said, only P50 million had been released as of mid-June.

He said at least P1 billion is needed to fund an all-out, no-nonsense anti-drug-war.



PANCHO Masferre and his son Rico reminisce their experiences with the famous Eduardo Masferre, through his favorite photo "Old potter and her grandchild," which he shot in 1940s in Kalinga. (Story below) DESIREE CALUZA

Sagada's Masferre remembered

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAGADA, Mt. Province—"This should enable me to dedicate more time to other matters, especially my pet project of taking a complete (rather as possibly complete) pictorial record of life in our mountain country as it is today."

Thus wrote the famed Cordillera photographer Eduardo Masferre to his wife Nena on Sept. 10, 1950.

"This is just one of the 65 letters that I would read over and over again," said Nena in her home in Sagada. "But this letter is the one I usually read to friends because this is the one that tells his thoughts about how he would commit himself to documenting the rich culture of the Cordillera."

Masferre died on June 24, 1995 at the age of 86. On his 8th death anniversary last week, his family and friends offered a memorial mass for him.

Family members and friends recalled his life and times as documentarist of culture, through his vintage black and white photographs.

His photographs opened the eyes of the world to the Cordillera and earned him a distinguished title as one of the country's cultural heroes in 1999.

"People say that the Spaniards are racist, but Masferre was not. He married Nena, a Kankanaey, and they had Elvira, Pancho and his other children," Fr. Gerry Sagayo, Anglican priest of the St. Mary's Church here, said in his homily during the mass.

Masferre, who was born to a Spanish soldier and a Kankanaey woman from Sagada, grew up in this town and left to study in Spain when he was five years old. He came back later to Sagada and worked with the American missionaries.

His interest in photography started during his teenage years, and while working as a teacher at St. Mary's School here, he took photography as a hobby.

Masferre bought his first camera in 1933 and taught himself the art and science of photography.

He learned how to develop and paint films in his studio. He only used sunlight as enlarger when electricity was not available at that time, according to Masferre's cousin Bartolome Dao-as.

From the 1930 to 1950, Masferre went around Sagada and Bontoc in Mt. Province and Kalinga to document the Igorots' priceless culture.

His original photographs and negatives are still intact and kept in his house in Barangay Nangonogan here. The family house, which looks like a small museum, is occasionally made open to those who want to see his photographs.

One of his famous photographs taken in 1950, a portrait of his uncle Lakay Kabayo, a respected elder of dap-ay (council) of Bilig, graces the sala at the family house.

But his favorite photograph "The potter and her grandchild," which was taken in 1940 in Kalinga, is the house's centerpiece.

The family preserved Masferre's Roliflex that he used after World War II. His first camera, a Kodak Graphlex, is still intact.

But Pancho Masferre, the master's fourth of six children, said they are worried about the condition of the negatives that are only kept in a steel filing cabinet. He said the negatives might be damaged because of the humidity of the place.

The Masferre Country Inn and Restaurant, which the family put up in 1988, houses Masferre's more than a hundred postcards.

Pancho said he is always reminded of his father as a man of discipline and perfection.

"My father was caught between two different cultures. He lived in the village that 'culture' and lifestyle wanted to change. He had a strong foresight. He would always say that the kind of living before would vanish, that's why he took a bold step of documenting it," Pancho said.

2 NPA rebels die in Quezon clash, says military

By TJ Burgonio

TWO COMMUNIST rebels were killed during a two-hour firefight with government troops in General Nakar, Quezon on Saturday, military officials said yesterday. Six soldiers were earlier reported wounded in the clash.

After the clash, the troops recovered the bodies of the two rebels, one of whom was identified only as Ka Jonas, an M-16 rifle, military paraphernalia and other anti-government documents, according to Maj. Benjamin Hao of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division.

"Our offensive operations in the area will continue as long as NPA (members) (continue to do) terroristic activities," said Maj. Gen. Efren Abu, commanding general of the Army's 2nd ID based in Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal.

Troops of the 59th Infantry Battalion encountered some 50 NPA rebels, while conducting operations in Barangay Canaway around 8:30 a.m., triggering a two-hour firefight.

The troops proceeded to the area, after being tipped off that the rebels were massing up at the boundary between General Nakar, Quezon and Bulacan.

The clash came two days after some 200 rebels raided and torched an Army patrol base of the 52nd Infantry Battalion in Oras town, Eastern Samar, killing 11 militiamen, five soldiers and a wife of corporal.

It was the heaviest casualty suffered by the military in the hands of the rebels in recent years.

Communist rebels stepped up their attacks, killing a militiaman and his wife, and a civilian in separate incidents in Agusan del Norte and Albay on Friday last week, the military also reported yesterday.

A group of New People's Army rebels shot and killed Balaw Manguanta, a member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit, and his wife Rosemarie in their home in Barangay Lawan-lawan, Las Nievas town around 10 p.m. Friday.

Lt. Col. Joselito Kakilala, Army spokesperson, could not say what triggered the NPA raid and shooting.

Earlier, around 1:30 p.m. that day, another group of rebels shot and killed Sigfredo Bitancur in Sitio Danao in Legazpi City, after abducting him from his home in Barangay Imainod.

Bitancur, 53, died from a gunshot wound in his back and multiple injuries in the head—an indication that he was tortured—Kakilala said.

Recovered from the scene were two empty shells and two cartridges of an Armalite rifle.

Quoting field reports, he said the civilian was executed because he was vocal about his opposition to the rebels' alleged extortion activities and harassment of civilians in the area.

Also at 6 p.m. Friday, rebels torched a bulldozer and a timber jack owned by businessman James Tan in the vicinity of Kilometer 36 in Sitio Makabay, Lawan-lawan, Las Nieves town in Agusan del Norte.

"The motive of the burning was the failure of Tan to give extortion money to the communist organization," Kakilala said.

The military observed that the communist insurgents intensified their operations last week.

Batanes festivity features Ivatan life

By Juliet Cataluna
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BASCO, Batanes—The Ivatans, known for their resiliency amid the harsh environment of Batanes Islands, took time out to celebrate their unique culture in a weeklong festivity that featured their version of *bayanihan* (cooperation).

Representatives from six towns of Batanes each featured *payuhwan* (Ivatan culture of cooperativism) in various aspects of community life, such as house building, farming, fishing and wedding rites.

The cultural show was the highlight of Batanes' 220th founding anniversary celebration held last week.

Uyugan town won the top honors for its "realistic and artistic" feature of the Ivatan's cooperation, as shown in house building.

Organizers said they chose to highlight the payuhwan in the celebration, because this was a big factor in the Ivatans' survival through the years, despite natural calamities.

Henedina Abad, dean of the Ateneo School of Government and wife of Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, said payuhwan "underscores the importance of our link to our past and the preservation of our heritage as Ivatans."

"Batanes is no longer a tiny (spot on the) map of the Philippines, (which) one gets to hear about only in weather reports. Rather, our province is now the pristine and beautiful paradise that many Filipinos and foreigners include in their must-see list," Abad, guest of honor at the celebration, said.

She reminded Ivatans that these cultural practices "have allowed us to survive our harsh environment and emerge with pride and dignity as a province (sic) despite (our) isolation."

She said the uniqueness and strength of Ivatan culture won for Batanes honors and praises not only from within the country but also from foreign visitors.

Abad warned, however, that "moving forward" does not mean forgetting the Ivatans' cultural heritage.

"Development entails building on the richness of this heritage," she said.

Abad also asked the cooperation of Ivatans to work for the inclusion of Batanes in the list of World Heritage sites of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco).

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 414 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Another broadcaster slay witness surfaces

LUCENA CITY—Another witness to the killing of dwTI broadcaster Apolinario Pobeda presented himself and pointed to a Lucena City councilor as alleged part of the group that planned the murder, according to a member of Task Force Polly.

The TFP member revealed that a certain Wilson Ortula, 45, a resident of Tayabas, Quezon, executed an affidavit, stating that one of the Patulay brothers, the first two arrested suspects in the Pobeda murder, had allegedly reported to Councilor Vic Paulo a few hours after the killing.

The task force official, who requested anonymity, said the new witness allegedly overheard the suspect while reporting to Paulo that "the mission to kill Pobeda has been accomplished."

But the said official himself admitted that the affidavit bears little probative value.

"It's only circumstantial and could easily fall into the category of hearsay," the TFP official said.

Senior Supt. Federico Terte, Quezon police chief, confirmed the existence of the supposed statement from the new witness.

But Paulo denied Ortula's allegation. "I don't even know the faces of the suspects, except on (sic) television and newspaper reports." *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

50 Ways to Celebrate JULY

Mga giftong pabuenas ang hatid ng mga kapamilya mo sa ABS-CBN!

JULY 1

Makaka-jackpot na kaya sina Robin at Juday?
Find out if they are the next celebrity millionaires.

Start of the All-Celebrity Guests

MILLION, MILLION NA! GAME KNB?

Weeknights after Basta't Kasama Kita

JULY 2

Nag-uumapaw ang mga kapana-panabik na tagpo sa mga teleseryeng bida sa gabi mo!

After TV Patrol : **KAY TAGAL KANG HININTAY BASTA'T KASAMA KITA**

After Game KNB?: **DARATING ANG UMAGA SANA'Y WALA NANG WAKAS**

JULY 3

Labis niya tayong pinatawa ...
ngunit sino nga ba si Babalu sa likod ng kamera?
Tampok sina Paolo Contis at Tirso Cruz III.

Talambuhay ng di malilimutang komedyante

MAALAALA MO KAYA

Thursday, after Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas

JULY 4

Unmistakable chemistry.
Extremely romantic.
Kikiligin ka talaga kina
Piolo Pascual at Joyce Jimenez!

Star Cinema Presents

I THINK I'M IN LOVE

Friday after Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas

JULY 5

Magtatagisan ng galing ang mga Flying Sexy Girls. Grand Finals na!

Hot bods, great acts!

MASAYANG TANGHALI, BAYAN

after Meteor Garden Rewind

New Saturday Primetime sked:
6:00 PM - **Meteor Garden**
6:30 PM - **Magandang Gabi, Bayan**
8:00 PM - **Buttercup**
9:30 PM - **Arriba, Arriba**

JULY 6

Si Rovic gustong makipagbalikan kay Eds. Ok kaya kay Eds?
Si Dodge type si Anne.
Paano naman si George?

Mga nagbabagong ibigan!

TABING ILOG

Sunday after A.S.A.P. MANIA

Waging-wagi pa rin ang weekend mo!

FEEL AT HOME
Ang paborito ninyong comedy stars makiki-Amazing Race with Charlene! — Sunday 10:30 am

SHARON
For her show's 5th anniversary, the Mega Jams with the Concert King Martin Nievera. — Sunday after The Buzz

WANSAPANATAYM
Make way for the Pinoy Spiderman na si Gagambayani! — Sunday after Sharon

HOME ALONG DA RILES
It's Home Along da Bohol! It's the 1st of the 4-part birthday bash for Comedy King Dolphy. — Sunday after Wansapanataym

Unang linggo pa lang yan para sa Hulyo. Mas tiba-tiba pa kayo sa mga susunod na sorpresa ... Kaya tutok lang!

50 YEARS ABS-CBN TELEVISION SINCE 1953

'Every actress in the world looked up to her'

From page A1

come will discover her humor, her grace, her keen intelligence," McFadden said in a statement from the family at a news conference near Hepburn's home, where the actress spent much of her childhood. "She was and always will be an American original. She died as she lived, with dignity and grace."

The lights will dim on Broadway at 8 p.m. Tuesday (0000 GMT Wednesday) in her honor.

In accordance with Hepburn's wishes, there will be no memorial service and a private burial will be scheduled at a later date.

"I think every actress in the world looked up to her with a kind of reverence and a sense of 'oh boy, if only I could be like her,'" Elizabeth Taylor said in a statement.

During her 60-year career, Hepburn won a record four Academy Awards and was nominated 12 times, which stood as a record in the acting categories until Meryl Streep surpassed her nomination total in 2003. Hepburn's Oscars were for "Morning Glory," 1933; "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," 1967; "The Lion in Winter," 1968; and "On Golden Pond," 1981.

Could've done more

Despite her success, Hepburn always felt she could have done more. "I could have accomplished three times what I've accomplished," she once said. "I haven't realized my full potential. It's disgusting."

But, she said, "Life's what's important. Walking, houses, family. Birth and pain and joy—and then death. Acting's just waiting for the custard pie. That's all."

Hepburn, the product of a wealthy, freethinking New England family, was forthright in her opinions and unconventional in her conduct.

She dressed for comfort, usually in slacks and sweater, with her red hair caught up in a topknot. She married only once, briefly, and her name was linked to Howard Hughes and other famous men, but the great love of her life was Spencer Tracy. They made nine films together and remained close companions until Tracy's death in 1967.

Her Broadway role in "Warrior's Husband" brought a movie offer from RKO, and she went to Hollywood at $1,500 a week to star opposite John Barrymore in the 1932 film "A Bill of Divorcement." The lean, athletic actress with the well-bred manner became an instant star. The voice Tallulah Bankhead once likened to "nickels dropping in a slot machine" became one of Hollywood's most-imitated.

Hepburn's third movie, "Morning Glory," brought her first Oscar. A string of parts followed—Jo in "Little Women," the ill-fated queen in "Mary of Scotland," the rich would-be actress in "Stage Door," the madcap socialite of "Bringing Up Baby," the shy rich girl in "Holiday."

Box-office poison

A theater chain owner branded her and other stars "box-office poison" after several of Hepburn's roles received a cool reception from critics, and her film career waned.

Undaunted, Hepburn acquired the rights to a comedy about a spoiled heiress, and, after it was rewritten for her, took it to the New York stage. "The Philadelphia Story" was a hit.

She returned to Hollywood for the 1940 film version, which featured James Stewart and Cary Grant. Once again she was a top star, with a contract at MGM for "Woman of the Year," "Keeper of the Flame," "Sea of Grass," "Dragon Seed," "Without Love," "State of the Union," "Pat and Mike" and "Adam's Rib."

Her first film with Tracy was "Woman of the Year," in 1942. Legend has it that when they met she commented, "I'm afraid I'm a little big for you, Mr. Tracy." His reply: "Don't worry, I'll cut you down to size."

Tracy never divorced his wife, who outlived him by 15 years; Hepburn, though she led a PBS tribute to Tracy in 1986, rarely mentioned their private relationship.

"I have had 20 years of perfect companionship with a man among men," she said in 1963. "He is a rock and a protection. I've never regretted it." In another interview, she discussed their special screen magic, saying they represented "the perfect American couple."

After leaving MGM in 1951, Hepburn divided her time between the stage—she appeared in Shaw's "The Millionairess" and Shakespeare's "As You Like It"—and film. She coolly braved a jungle for "The African Queen" and did her own balloon flying in the low-budget "Olly Olly Oxen Free."

She co-starred with Taylor and Montgomery Clift in "Suddenly Last Summer," with Jason Robards Jr. in "Long Day's Journey into Night," with Laurence Olivier in the TV movie "Love Among the Ruins" and with Henry Fonda in "On Golden Pond," which won both of them Oscars.

She coaxed the ailing Tracy back onto the set for their roles as wealthy, liberal parents faced with the interracial marriage of their daughter in "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner." Tracy died before the film's release.

From A to B

Though an early appearance in "The Lake" promoted Dorothy Parker's famously scathing remark that Hepburn "ran the gamut of emotions from A to B," she worked as tirelessly on stage as in movies.

She starred in the musical "Coco" in 1969. When she broke an ankle during "A Matter of Gravity" in 1976, she went on in a wheelchair. Fans flocked to see her on Broadway in "West Side Waltz," in 1982.

Hepburn nearly lost a foot in a car accident in late 1982 and spent almost three weeks in a hospital. But by the end of the year she was back before the cameras, co-starring with Nick Nolte in "Grace Quigley," a comedy about a woman teaming with a hit man to help old people who want to die.

For many years, she divided her time between New York and Connecticut. Even well into her 70s, she was restless with energy, arising at dawn and going to bed at 7 p.m. when she wasn't appearing in a play or making another film.

She took to writing. Her first book, "The Making of 'The African Queen': Or, How I Went To Africa With Bogart, Bacall and Huston and Almost Lost My Mind" made her a best-selling author at 77. She followed it up with "Me: Stories of My Life" in 1991.

In 1994, Warren Beatty persuaded a reluctant Hepburn to fly out to Los Angeles and play his aunt in the romantic comedy "Love Affair." She also appeared in a television movie, "One Christmas."

Along the honors coming her way in later years: A 1999 survey of screen legends by the American Film Institute ranked her No. 1 among actresses.

She was born in Hartford, Connecticut, on May 12, 1907, one of six children of Dr. Thomas N. Hepburn, a noted urologist and pioneer in social hygiene, and Katharine Houghton Hepburn, who worked for birth control and getting the vote for women. Hepburn is survived by a sister, Margaret Hepburn Perry; a brother, Dr. Robert Hepburn; and 13 nieces and nephews.

Young Kate was educated by tutors and at private schools, entering Bryn Mawr in 1924. After graduating, she joined a stock company in Baltimore.

She made her New York debut in "These Days" in 1928, the same year she married Philadelphia socialite Ludlow Ogden Smith. She divorced him in 1934 and later remarked, "I don't believe in marriage. It's bloody impractical to love, honor and obey. If it weren't, you wouldn't have to sign a contract."

She had various health problems in later years, including hip replacement surgery and tremors similar to Parkinson's disease.

In a 1990 interview, she told The Associated Press: "I'm what is known as gradually disintegrating. I don't fear the next world, or anything. I don't fear hell, and I don't look forward to heaven."

"There comes a time in your life when people get very sweet to you," she said in another interview. "I don't mind people being sweet to me. In fact, I'm getting rather sweet back at them.

"But I'm a madly irritating person, and I irritated them for years. Anything definite is irritating—and stimulating. I think they're beginning to think I'm not going to be around much longer. And what do you know—they'll miss me, like an old monument." *AP*

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Loren, Tessie both vying for education committee

From page A1

gy—will be offered to the minority senators.

Drilon said Legarda had expressed a desire to give up her post as majority leader for the chairmanship of the education committee. She made the request to the majority coalition four months ago, he said.

He said Legarda wanted to give up the majority leadership "because she is a re-electionist and she believes that in fairness to the position of a majority leader, it must be held by somebody who would not be bothered by a re-election campaign."

He said the majority leader "must have full concentration" on his job.

The majority coalition will discuss Legarda's request, Drilon said.

Oreta wants old post

Oreta, on the other hand, is said to also be aiming for the education committee. She used to be chair of the committee during the Estrada administration.

Almost every day, Oreta's office has been issuing press releases on issues dealing with the education sector.

Yesterday, she called on Malacañang to develop the information and communications technology skills of public school teachers and students. Last Friday, she assailed the Palace for failing to use foreign loans to build new classrooms, train teachers and procure textbooks. She also issued a statement that day saying that 130,000 teachers have no PhilHealth cards.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan was temporarily designated chair of the education committee after Cayetano went to the US last year to seek medical treatment for a liver ailment. Sen. Joker Arroyo had been designated chair of the energy committee, but he refused to assume the post.

Committee redistribution

Minority Leader Sen. Vicente Sotto III said he would ask Drilon instead to "redistribute committees that are not functioning well or whose outcomes leave much to be desired" because the chair is preoccupied with other committees or is "overloaded with work."

Sotto pointed out that the majority bloc now has one member less.

LEGARDA

ORETA

He said the minority holds the chairmanship of only nine of the 36 Senate committees, and most of them are minor committees.

Drilon said the majority coalition will discuss the possibility of handing the chairmanship of a Cayetano committee to the minority "to allow greater participation by the minority group in the Senate."

He reiterated that there will be no leadership change in the Senate. He said he enjoys the support of the 12-member majority coalition and the opposition has not expressed any desire to seek any leadership change.

No Senate coup

Both power blocs in the Senate have belied reports that a Senate coup was in the offing.

In a statement last Friday, Sotto said the minority bloc was denouncing reports about moves to gain the Senate majority. He appealed to power brokers in the chamber "to refrain from speculating on the political repercussions" of Cayetano's death on the Senate leadership.

He added: "We appeal to all to give the Senate a break and cease efforts to further smear the minority especially since no one in the opposition has ever raised the issue at this time."

Arroyo said a leadership change was "a long way off."

"Nothing will take place. Of course, there will always be rumblings. But at the moment, the score is 12-10. If it will hold, then that's it. But I'm not in the business of counting votes in a reorganization," said Arroyo.

He denied reports that the "Wednesday group"—composed of Arroyo and Senators Pangilinan, Manny Villar, Ralph Recto and Noli De Castro—was working to replace Drilon with Villar.

"Farthest from that," said Arroyo. "Unless, of course, somebody provokes us. Then we'll fight."

He stressed that the group would be happy to "stay on the sidelines," as "slow-burning senators ... who have the patience not to be provoked."

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Drug war starts with PNP purge

From page A1

erate motor vehicles and pose a threat to public safety."

Ms Macapagal said these violations were crucial in cutting down the demand-supply chain and sustained pressure should be made to bear on them.

"The PDEA will see to it that these reforms are pursued to their logical conclusion," she said.

In Congress, the chair of the House committee on public order and security proposed on-the-spot drug testing of drivers and firearms carriers. This would more effectively check illegal drug use, Rep. Jose "Ace" Durano (NPC, Cebu) said.

Durano said the current drug testing scheme—using urine samples—was ineffective because people could prepare for it.

"An on-the-spot or random check will not give the driver or firearms user a chance to prepare for it. Its main purpose is to determine if people driving or carrying firearms have control over their faculties and are not under the influence of drugs," he said.

"If the government can conduct on-the-spot emission tests on vehicles, then it should also (conduct) drug checks on the spot (for) drivers," Durano said.

But an on-the-spot drug test may cost more, he admitted.

Only one

The President emphasized yesterday that there must only be one point of operational authority and accountability in the anti-illegal drugs campaign.

"This is the PDEA. It will enforce our disciplinary policies strictly and evenly, without fear or favor," she said.

Ms Macapagal convened a command conference last Saturday in Malacañang. In that meeting, she made clear that the PDEA would be the lead agency in the anti-illegal drugs campaign. Sen. Robert Barbers, former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and ex-police officers Reynaldo Jaylo and Lucio Margallo, who were supposed to play a major role in the campaign, were not invited to the command conference.

Presidential chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao said this was because the President felt she already had "very capable officials" in the person of PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido, Interior Secretary and Dangerous Drugs Board chair Jose Lina and PNP anti-narcotics task force head Chief Supt. Edgardo Aglipay.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the advice of Barbers and Lim would still be welcome, but the actual enforcement would be led by the PDEA.

He said Barbers could review PDEA's performance in his capacity as chair of the Senate oversight committee on illegal drugs.

Meanwhile, two men from Japan and China were among 100 suspected drug traffickers rounded up in fresh raids over the weekend, police said.

The arrests were part of the three-month campaign to neutralize some 175 foreign and local drug syndicates operating in the country.

"There will be no letup in our drive to get rid of the drug dealers in Metro Manila," Metropolitan Manila police chief Reynaldo Velasco said.

Earlier, the government announced that a total 15,718 people had been arrested on drugs-related charges in the Philippines between July 30, 2002 and June 28.

Those arrested included 19 Chinese nationals, four Americans, three Taiwan nationals, three Pakistanis, two Indonesians and one national each from Australia, Britain, South Korea, Germany, Brazil, Israel, Japan and Jordan.

At the Supreme Court, a political party's petition to have mandatory drug-testing declared unconstitutional progressed when the high court ordered the government to respond in 10 days.

In an en banc resolution, the high court on June 10 ordered the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), the Philippine Drug-Enforcement Agency, and the Solicitor General to comment on the petition of the Social Justice Society.

SC Clerk of Court Luzviminda Puno said the government had 10 days to respond upon receipt of the court order.

The SJS on May 5 asked the court to declare Section 36 of Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, unconstitutional.

The questioned provision empowers the government, through the health department and its accredited drug testing laboratories, to conduct random drug testing on high school and college students, and officers and employees of public and private offices.

The law also requires mandatory drug testing on persons charged before the prosecutor's office, with offenses carrying more than six years, and candidates for public office—whether appointed or elected.

"One of the means employed to attain such purpose ... without probable cause, is unreasonable, an unwarranted invasion of the individual's right to privacy," said SJS counsel Samson Alcantara.

He said that the tests could be used to harass student leaders and union officials, "whom the school or employer considers undesirable."

Alcantara also asked the DDB to stop conducting mandatory drug tests.

But the Department of Justice, which is represented in the DDB, said the drug tests would continue until the SC strikes down the law.

"The Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, which calls for mandatory testing, was of course approved by Congress and that's considered valid and constitutional until declared otherwise by the SC. That is our position in the DDB," said Justice Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez.

With reports from Cynthia Balana and Philip Tubeza; AFP

President has no choice on Cha-cha, says lawyer

From page A1

that the President "has a zero role (in Charter change) as it is exclusively a congressional initiative."

"With due respect, I must say that nothing could be more erroneous," Sabio said.

Proposed changes

Sabio said his study group would soon present their proposed Charter changes to the President, through presidential adviser on special concerns Norberto Gonzales.

Gonzales pooled some 40 constitutionalists about a year ago to draft a new Constitution. He recently admitted he would devote his energies to getting the Constitution amended before the May 2004 polls.

Last night, in a visit to the INQUIRER, Sabio said he had been the one to actually organize the study group.

"(The President) should take a stand. As to what kind of stand, whether it's for or against (Charter change), it's up to her. But she should be involved," Sabio said.

While she did not object to moves to amend the Charter, Ms Macapagal has refused to join the debate.

He added that their study group was formed primarily to provide the President some inputs.

"This group was organized under the auspices of (Gonzales' office) to assist the President when the time comes, as it will surely come, for her to make a decision on Charter change," Sabio said.

Magsaysay awardee

Meanwhile, a Ramon Magsaysay awardee cautioned Charter change advocates with a familiar piece of advice: "It's not the song but the singer."

Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo, Magsaysay awardee for government service in 2000, questioned the motives of Charter change proponents.

During an online chat last week with students and faculty members of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Robredo said people's attitudes should first be changed before the Constitution is amended.

"While amendments may be necessary, I guess we need to mend ourselves first instead of amending the Constitution now," Robredo said.

The mayor lamented the lack of real debate on the merits and demerits of specific charter revisions such as federalism.

Robredo said progress and development in the local government can be achieved under the present political setup.

He advised local government units to imitate Naga's example "by looking beyond the Local Government Code, by extending the interpretation of the code's provisions."

He said in Naga, the civil society and other local groups are represented in city council committees. He said this was not mentioned in the Code; by the same token, he said, the Code does not prohibit it.

The Naga government under Robredo also has so-called Peoples' Councils, composed of non-government organizations, which nominate representatives to the council committees and special bodies of the city government.

"Collectively, these Peoples' Councils have their own development agenda and interests which they push to be included in the city's plans," Robredo explained.

The city's personnel selection board, he added, also has representatives from NGOs, who make sure that patronage politics would not influence the appointment of employees to various government posts.

The mayor said he backed an ordinance allowing NGOs to work with the city not only at the policy-making level but at the program management level as well.

"This representation allows them to advocate, argue and promote their concerns," Robredo said, adding that the ordinance promotes transparency and accountability mechanism in the Naga government.

The online chat was part of the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation's effort to bring its laureates closer to the people of Asia.

The activity is the debut of "Thursday Chats with Magsaysay Awardees" (www.rmaf.org.ph).

Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., who won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for government service last year, will be the next guest. *With a report from Jerome Aning*

Confusion at NLRC

From page A1

fices in Quezon City.

Rayala also attended the flag ceremony at 8 a.m. But he did not deliver a talk to employees as was his practice from 1998 until the middle of 2000 when Malacañang found him guilty of sexually harassing a stenographer and fired him as NLRC chair. He was replaced by Roy Señeres, former Philippine ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.

Rayala reportedly spent the whole day at the office of a labor arbiter on the fourth floor.

Lawyer Filomeno Balbin, Seneres' chief of staff, said Rayala was treated just like any other visitor. "We don't really mind him (Rayala) as long as he does not disturb us," Balbin said.

Señeres left Saturday for Geneva to give a talk on issues involving seafarers before the International Labor Organization. Commissioner Raul Aquino has been designated acting NLRC chair until Seneres returns next week.

Other employees, however, said Rayala's visits have been creating tension and confusion at the NLRC. They said Rayala entered the office of Señeres on Friday and went from room to room before taking his lunch.

"Some employees are confused because he (Rayala) is saying that he is still the chair," said an NLRC official who asked not to be identified.

Aquino said Rayala had told him about his intention of reassuming his old post.

What emboldened Rayala to stage a comeback at the NLRC was the June 3 ruling of the Court of Appeals lowering his penalty for sexual harassment to one-year suspension. Another CA division had earlier upheld Malacañang's decision to dismiss Rayala, but he sought relief from another division.

Balbin said the CA ruling was not self-executory. "There is no court order yet so Señeres is still the NLRC chair," he said.

Aquino said Señeres could still contest the CA ruling.

Armed with the CA ruling, however, Rayala has been telling everyone, including Señeres, that he is entitled to reassume the top NLRC post until his retirement on Dec. 28 this year.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas reportedly discussed the issue with Señeres on Friday. Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson, however, said he did not know what transpired during the meeting between Sto. Tomas and Seneres.

For its part, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines urged Rayala to just leave the service.

"(Rayala) should have the decency to refrain from subjecting the NLRC to another episode to fulfill his selfish desires," TUCP spokesperson Alex Aguilar said.

"As far as the labor sector is concerned, Rayala has already lost his moral ascendancy when he was found guilty of sexually harassing a subordinate," Aguilar added, pointing out that the CA did not clear Rayala of the charges.

"This should be enough reason for him to leave the service," he said.

Citing the CA decision, Rayala told Señeres in a letter last week "to refrain . . . from exercising the powers, duties and prerogatives of the office as de facto chairman of the (NLRC)." *With a report by Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

Go easy on the 'Boss,' PCGG told

From page A1

"Danding is part of the Macapagal administration and he is supportive of the government," Nograles added, for emphasis.

The PCGG's officer in charge, Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr., had told reporters last Thursday: "We have instructed our five directors to take the matter up in the SMC board of directors meeting. We are hopeful the other directors will also take the matter up. It is a legitimate concern."

About half of San Miguel's equity was sequestered by the PCGG in 1986, on suspicion it was ill-gotten wealth acquired during the Marcos regime. Litigation is ongoing.

The NPC leader, Cojuangco nephew Rep. Gilbert Teodoro (NPC, Tarlac), defended the SMC chair by going on the offensive. "We should instead probe why the assets under their (PCGG) management have deteriorated," Teodoro said in a text message. He did not elaborate.

The assets of SMC, one of the country's largest companies, have been under Cojuangco's management since July 1998.

Teodoro said he had yet to hear of developments regarding the PCGG's investigation into the Cojuangco ad. The commercial shows Cojuangco announcing the change in name of La Tondeña Distillers Inc., an SMC subsidiary, to Ginebra San Miguel Inc.

Last week, the San Miguel media affairs office justified the TV campaign.

"Corporate endorsements by company CEOs (chief executive officers) is a common practice here and abroad and is considered a cost-efficient marketing tool. It is only appropriate for Mr. Cojuangco, whose name is synonymous to (*sic*) the success of SMC and (its) subsidiaries, to endorse the product and to highlight a milestone in the company's history," a company statement read.

A group of NPC and Lakas congressmen is drafting Cojuangco for the 2004 presidential elections. He ran in the 1992 polls, and placed third behind Fidel Ramos and Miriam Defensor Santiago.

Nograles said Cojuangco supporters are appalled that the PCGG is sniping at the businessman at a time when Cojuangco is being talked about as a serious contender in 2004.

"We bewail that the guy is suddenly being attaked," Nograles said. "Besides, what's wrong with the ads?"

Without referring to Carranza, Nograles said some "quarters" in the administration were "afraid of a Cojuangco bid."

But he absolved the President of any responsibility. "I believe that President Macapagal had no hand in it," Nograles said.

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NPA eyed in Monkayo mayor's slay

By Dennis Jay C. Santos and Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Christian V. Esguerra

COMMUNIST rebels could have plotted the assassination of controversial Mayor Joel Brillantes of Monkayo, Compostela Valley, police and military authorities said yesterday.

Brillantes, 48, was shot dead inside a cockpit in Davao City on Saturday night. Police said the lone assassin, identified as Aniceto Dejeto Sr., 33, was a former New People's Army (NPA) rebel, although another report said he was a member of the barangay police.

Shortly after firing on the mayor, the suspect was shot and killed by at least three men.

Witnesses had earlier said that Brillantes' bodyguards killed Dejeto, but his wife Nene and one of his aides denied that they were armed at the time of the incident. Nene said the bodyguards deposited their firearms with security personnel of the Davao Matina Gallera before they were allowed inside the cockpit to watch a five-cock P2-million derby.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the police to conduct an in-depth investigation of the killing and go after the suspects and the mastermind.

"I condole with the family of Mayor Joel Brillantes and only wish he had been more vigilant over his personal security," the President said in a statement.

Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, military intelligence chief, said he was more inclined to believe that the NPA was behind the assassination of Brillantes. The victim, he said, had earned the ire of rebels in the province because he worked hard to check their extortion activities.

The military has claimed that mining activities in Mt. Diwata, also known as Diwalwal, has been the largest source of funds for NPA rebels operating in the area.

"Diwalwal has been a milking cow of the NPAs," Corpus told the INQUIRER in a phone interview in Davao City. The rebels have been requiring miners to pay "revolutionary tax."

Corpus, himself a former high-ranking communist leader, disclosed that Brillantes had recently stepped up efforts against the NPA rebels by working closely with the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp).

He said Brillantes, a former soldier who became a millionaire during the Diwalwal gold rush of the '80s, shared valuable information about the rebels' extortion activities in the province.

Three former NPA members have helped the gunman plan the assassination, Director Eduardo Matillano, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said.

"We already have several leads and we hope to arrest them soon," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. Matillano and his men were sent to Davao City to investigate the killing.

Matillano said the suspects hailed from Barangay Tulali-an, Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte, where Dejeto also came from. Their identification indicated that the killing could be a result of Brillantes' purported feud with the rebel group, he said.

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, PNP chief, yesterday told Manila-based reporters that Dejeto was a hired gun.

Although both pointed to a possible communist plot, Corpus and Matillano did not discount Brillantes' conflict with other Diwalwal miners as a motive.

"There are several angles that we really have to look into here," Matillano said. "At this point, it would be better not to isolate the NPA angle from the Diwalwal angle."

The mayor, who owned Joel Brillantes Management and Mining Corp. (JBMMC), drew the ire of small-scale miners last year after he ordered the closure of mining tunnels in Diwalwal, claiming that they had been polluting the rivers.

"He made enemies out of big mining companies, which he ordered closed due to environmental (considerations)," Corpus said.

According to Matillano, Brillantes' enemies might have hired the gunman and the three former NPA members to finish him off. *With reports from Juliet L. Javellana and Cynthia D. Balana*

13 soldiers die in NPA . . .

From page A1

The government suspended talks in 2001 after guerrillas killed Rodolfo Aguinaldo, a former Cagayan governor and representative, who they said committed human rights violations while he served in the military. The Norwegian government, which brokered the last round of talks in Oslo, is trying to bring the two sides back to the negotiating table.

The government on Sunday confirmed that a group led by Speaker Jose de Venecia is in the Netherlands to discuss the possible resumption of talks with rebel leaders living in exile there.

The guerrillas began stepping up attacks since the United States and the European Union blacklisted the 10,000-strong NPA as a terrorist group last year and campaigned to cut rebel support. *Reports from TJ Burgonio, AP and AFP*

METRO MANILA TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Mayors insist on autonomy, plead case with GMA

By Luige del Puerto and Leila Salaverria

METRO Manila mayors are set to go to Malacañang to plead their case and press for control over road and traffic affairs in their respective areas, according to Mandaluyong City Mayor Benjamin Abalos, Jr.

This developed after Malacañang declared that the Metro Manila Development Authority has the sole authority to oversee traffic and garbage management in the metropolis, based on the opinion of the Department of Justice.

But Mayor Abalos insisted that the issue is about the autonomy of local governments.

"We are insisting on our authority to manage our affairs, based on the ideal system that the local government code wants to establish," Abalos said.

He said that he and the other mayors are willing to smooth things over with the MMDA to minimize confusion in the streets.

"We have agreed to adopt the policies of the MMDA so there will be no confusion . . . we will comply in terms of uniform procedures," Abalos said. "We will explain this to President (Macapagal-Arroyo). We will harmonize this."

Abalos added that MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando could still expect the 17 mayors of Metro Manila to cooperate with the agency's traffic experiments.

"Actually, we (mayors) can tell (Fernando) that we don't want his traffic experiments," Abalos said. "But no, we are cooperating, 100 percent. He can still expect that from us."

Last week, Metro Manila mayors had decided to take over traffic management from the MMDA, causing an uproar among transport groups.

The justice department then declared that the MMDA has control over traffic management.

This has left MMDA Chair Fernando in a quandary.

Fernando said that as an appointee of the President, he has to follow what Ms Macapagal says.

But as head of the Metro Manila Council, he has to abide by the decision of the mayors who wish to enforce their own set of traffic rules in their areas.

Fernando has been tasked to harmonize the traffic codes of the 17 local government units in the metropolis and has been given three weeks to do so.

"Up to now, my mind is not made up about what would happen," Fernando said. "We'll see what the mayors decide when we submit what we've been asked to do."

Meanwhile, Abalos called on public vehicle drivers and operators to give the mayors the chance to manage traffic in their respective areas.

"You have nothing to fear," Abalos told them.

He said mayors have agreed to respect the traffic violation receipts (TVRs) to be issued by officials of different cities and municipalities.

Transport groups have expressed opposition to the mayors' decision to take over traffic management and issue their own TVRs. They have threatened to hold a strike should the mayors insist on their plan.

"It's the revenue from ticketing that the mayors are after," said Paguito Galura, coordinator Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operator Nationwide.

The MMDA earns more than P90 million a year from the fines and penalties collected from erring motorists.

METROBRIEFS

Drug testing in Bilibid

RANDOM drug testing was conducted on 35 National Bilibid Prisons inmates yesterday afternoon, according to Bureau of Corrections director Dionisio Santiago. The urine samples of the 35 inmates would be submitted to the Philippine National Police laboratory for analysis. High-profile inmates, including Rolito Go, Ambet Antonio and Rey Yap reportedly volunteered and were also included in the drug test. Santiago said he met yesterday with Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, who offered a discounted rate of P150 for every drug test, if Dionisio pushes through with his plan to test all the NBP inmates for drugs. Muntinlupa City maintains a drug testing laboratory at the Ospital ng Muntinlupa. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Cellphone theft

SAN ANDRES Integrated School teacher Moranda Lomboy, 37, of Welfareville Compound in Mandaluyong, lost her Nokia 3310 cellphone to her neighbors Junny Mones and Jonsen Ramos yesterday. She told police she had asked the two to help her put out a fire in her bedroom. She said the two went up to her bedroom, but left immediately, saying they had put out the fire. When Lomboy checked, the fire had been extinguished, but her cellphone was also gone. *Luige Del Puerto*

Road upgrade completed

MARIKINA Mayor Marides Lourdes Fernando yesterday said that Katipunan Street, which was perennially underwater, would no longer be flooded, after repairs were completed last week. The 540-meter road connects a major residential hub to the market and is one of the lowest points at the SSS Subdivision, Barangay Concepion Dos. The project cost the city P6.8 million, Fernando said. *Luigi Del Puerto*

Kidnap victims file raps

TWO BUSINESSMEN yesterday filed separate kidnap for ransom charges before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office. Alberto Chan, 54, of Novaliches, said that six men had abducted him on May 30 and demanded P10 million in exchange for his release. Chan said he was released on the same day, after his sons paid P100,000 to suspect Nilo Avelina and five other men. Bus firm owner Enrique Pineda, 54, of Antipolo City, accused Adonis Dauz and 4 other men of abducting him on June 7. Police said Pineda's daughter had paid a P1.5-million ransom to two of the suspects on June 14 in Mandaluyong City. *Amy Remo*

Remulla at Rotary gab

HOUSE Minority Floor Leader Gilbert C. Remulla is the guest of honor and speaker of the Rotary Club of Pasay, Metro Manila's second oldest club, on July at the penthouse of Hyatt Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, says lawyer Carlo T. Ocampo, club president for Rotary Year 2003-2004. Remulla will tackle some of his priority legislative programs and will share his insights on current issues and on his work as a legislator.

New Manila residents protest destruction of century-old trees

By Leah Salterio

THE DEVELOPER of Cherry Hills subdivision in Antipolo City is facing strong opposition from residents of Barangay Mariana in New Manila, Quezon City for cutting down century-old acacia trees at 11th Street corner Doña Hemady Street.

Former senatorial candidate Jamby Madrigal led residents in filing a petition with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to stop Dolmar Property Ventures from cutting down the trees to give way to a 20-unit townhouse project to be constructed on a 2,641-square meter lot.

Madrigal said Barangay Mariana residents were not advised about the tree-cutting on the morning of June 13, which was an official holiday marking Philippine independence.

She said Dolmar personnel used unlicensed chainsaws to cut the trees with no DENR officials monitoring the activity.

"They took advantage of the holiday, when residents were just resting," Madrigal told the INQUIRER. "The absence of a DENR monitoring team on a holiday makes their activity malicious."

She said she had rushed to the scene with other environmentalists, barangay watchmen and several policemen to stop the tree-cutting.

"From the start of their representation in initiating applications for their permits, Dolmar has always concealed their true intentions. They take advantage of government agencies' lack of resources in coordinating policies with each other."

After the Cherry Hills tragedy in August 1999, Dolmar's operation was suspended. The company was investigated for the tragedy where over a hundred people were killed when the houses it had built collapsed in a landslide.

Madrigal wrote a letter of complaint to Barangay Mariana chair Bong San Miguel, stating that Dolmar had no reason to cut the trees in the absence of a building permit and had no reason to build a 20-unit townhouse project on an R-1 zone classification, a prime residential area.

Barangay Mariana residents were surprised that Dolmar, represented by Sixto E. Tolentino, was granted a permit to cut the trees by DENR regional director Corazon Davis, on Sept. 26, 2002. On Oct. 15, Dolmar started cutting down the trees in the absence of monitoring personnel by the DENR, Madrigal said. She said she had learned that Dolmar applied for a condominium permit at the Housing Land Use and Regulatory Board and got it on Oct. 14, 2002. She said Dolmar initially applied for a tree-cutting permit with the DENR in order to build a single-unit house. But DENR rescinded its permit and advised Dolmar to obtain an environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

THIS ACACIA tree on the corner of Doña Hemady and 11th Street has been marked for destruction, according to property developers who have been cutting down trees to make room for a townhouse project.

Dolmar applied for a building permit for a 20-unit townhouse project, then again for a 12-unit townhouse, upon the advise of the Mariana Neighborhood Association, which granted barangay clearance for building permits.

But on March 4, the City Planning and Development Office issued a notice to Dolmar general manager Jose Zulueta, that only seven units shall be allowed for their development project in New Manila.

Madrigal said there was an appeal made by Barangay Mariana counsel Atty. Asido to DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun for reconsideration on the issuance of an ECC to Dolmar on April 6.

Madrigal remarked how it was "harder to save a tree than to cut it down."

Out of gas, car thief abandons girl, van on NLEX

A SUSPECTED car thief took the van of his neighbor, along with the victim's two-year-old daughter in Tondo, Manila on Saturday night.

But when the van ran out of gas, the suspect abandoned the girl, along with the vehicle, in the middle of the North Luzon Expressway early the following day.

Personnel of the Philippine National Construction Corp. found Claire Aina Salonga inside a blue Starex van on the shoulder lane of the North expressway near Bocaue, Bulacan on Sunday.

The girl was reunited with her father, Alejandro, in a Bocaue hospital, where she was taken for checkup.

The father told authorities that he owned the abandoned vehicle.

Police suspected that Bryan Silva, of Abucay, Bataan, and a houseboy of Salonga's neighbor, could be responsible for the abduction.

Senior Supt. Felizardo Serapio Jr., Bulacan police director, said they could not rule out kidnapping for ransom as the motive, although the girl's parents did not receive any ransom demand.

The elder Salonga said he parked his van in front of his house Saturday night. He told police that his helper forgot the girl was sleeping in the van.

When the elder Salonga heard that someone was starting the engine, he rushed outside to stop the van that sped away with the girl.

Witnesses told the police they saw Silva driving the van. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Bayani backs regional jails as 5 Parañaque inmates bolt

From page A16

jails and to have a common jail to serve the different LGUs," Fernando said.

According to him, the Regional Development Council, which he also heads, has been working on a similar proposal for some time now.

As Fernando spoke, news broke out that five inmates had escaped from the Parañaque City Jail.

Insp. Amilhamja Ismael, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology deputy warden for operations, identified the fugitives as Ernesto de los Santos, Rodolfo Ampatuan, Nicanor Hernandez, Ricardo Haji Bucat and Barrudin Balin Bengar.

The jail break happened at about 1:45 p.m. on Sunday as visitors were entering the facility.

JO1 Florentino Racquel was alone at the main gate inspecting the visitors' bags when an unidentified visitor pulled out a gun and aimed it at him.

Racquel tried to grab the pistol but it fell and was immediately picked up by Bengar.

Outnumbered and outgunned, the jail guard could only watch as the inmates fled through the open gate.

There were only four jail guards on duty at that time.

De los Santos, the alleged leader of the group, had been detained for murder. The others were in jail for drug-related cases.

Ismael said the jail lacked personnel to monitor its 614 detainees.

Parañaque warden Pepe Quiñones was immediately relieved of his post. Chief Insp. Malik Dagalangit took over.

F. Fernandez; 52

FRANCIS Angeles Fernandez of Binangonan, Rizal, died on Saturday at the age of 52.

He is survived by his wife Helen, daughter Gig, son-in-law Rommel, granddaughter Francesca, brothers and sisters and in-laws: Louie and Nancy, Lulu, Therese and Sony, Ignatius, Margie and Tony, Agnes and Bong, Anne and Tony, Manny and Vina.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Binangonan. He will be laid to rest on July 4, at the Binangonan municipal cemetery.

D. Ordoñez; 85

DEUICIA Lunasco Ordoñez of Alapan, Imus, Cavite passed away on Thursday at age 85.

She was the mother of nationalist writer and PUP professor Rogelio Ordoñez. Her remains will be interred this afternoon at the Angelus Memorial Park in Imus.

R. Tan Ng; 58

THE ROTARY Club of Metro SFDM announces the demise of one of its pioneers, past president Rodolfo "Rudy" Tan Ng. He was 58.

Rudy joined the Lord peacefully last Sunday. His remains lie in state at the Arlington Funeral Parlor on G. Araneta Avenue in Quezon City.

Interment will be on July 4, 9 a.m. at the Chinese Cemetery.

Rotarians from District 3780 and members of various "Metro" clubs nationwide will remember Rudy as a champion bowler, a nine-ball maverick, a professional-grade practical shooter and a lighthearted gentleman with a heart of gold.

He is survived by his wife Tita Ng and children Sherry Jane, Jumbo, Jojo and Dingdong.

Unfair to pigs

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

AMERICAN Muslims reportedly have taken offense at a suggestion by a US state senator that bodies of Muslim terrorists be buried with pig entrails to deter suicide attacks.

Guy Glodis, a Democrat in the Massachusettes state legislator, sent a flier, lifted from a US newspaper, saying Muslims were barred from entering paradise if they were buried with pig's blood, entrails, etc.

Muslims are forbidden by their religion from eating pork or having any contact with pigs.

Yes, Glodis' suggestion is unfair. To the pigs.

* * *

If the pigs had the intelligence of human beings they would surely protest being compared with people like the Abu Sayyaf.

The pigs would rather choose to be eaten than be put side by side with the Abu Sayyaf terrorists.

Only people who are like-minded or deranged would agree that killing, raping and kidnapping innocent civilians would be a passport to heaven.

* * *

If Ricardo Macala had not been sacked as director of the Bureau of Corrections, the manufacture of drugs inside the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) in Muntinlupa would still be going on.

The new prisons director, retired four-star general Dionisio Santiago, stumbled upon the shabu laboratory inside the NBP's maximum security compound.

Even if Macala is already out, he should be investigated for the shabu laboratory inside the NBP.

Macala allowed the traffic of drugs inside national prisons when he was still prisons director.

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to conduct periodic mandatory drug testing on all prisoners and prison officials will open a Pandora's box.

Many drug users among prisoners, detainees and jail or prisons officials will be exposed.

Illegal drugs trade has been going on inside prisons and jails for a long time. It's much easier to buy illegal drugs inside than outside prisons. The nefarious trade is the source of graft among prisons and jail officials.

* * *

It's just as well the President has changed her mind about officially appointing Sen. Robert Barbers, former Mayor Alfredo Lim and retired police Maj. Lucio Margallo as members of a special group to go after drug traffickers and pushers.

If Barbers, Lim and Margallo are taken in to form a special anti-drugs task force, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) will become useless.

The campaign against illegal drugs should focus on results, not personalities.

Barbers, Lim and Margallo can give their expert advice to the PDEA, but can't take part in its operation.

* * *

Former drug-buster Reynaldo Jaylo, however, has been taken in as PDEA official.

Jaylo will be operating within, and not outside, the PDEA.

But I suggest that he be allowed to recruit some of his past comrades to compose his immediate subordinates at the PDEA.

* * *

When I interviewed the President along with other broadcast journalists in Malacañang two weeks ago, I told her off and on camera that many PDEA agents are corrupt. I said that they came from the defunct Narcotics Command (Narcom) whose members were either selling seized drugs, protecting drug traffickers and pushers or "planting" drugs on citizens.

The interview took place in the morning. In the afternoon of that same day, I received a call from a Chinese acquaintance who said that his niece had been arrested by PDEA agents for drug trafficking. Could I help her get out, I was asked.

I said no way, I hate people who are involved in illegal drugs.

* * *

But my Chinese acquaintance said the reason he called was because he had given P500,000 to one of her captors in exchange for her freedom.

He said the money was given to a Sgt. Rivero inside the PDEA office in Camp Crame.

The PDEA agents who captured the Chinese woman had their cake and ate it too. They received bribe money and at the same accomplished their mission.

* * *

Rogelio Rayala, dismissed chair of the National Labor Relations Commission, wants to get back his post after he had served a one-year suspension for sexually harassing his stenographer.

He wants former Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Roy Señeres, who replaced him, to give way.

This Rayala has no shame. Other officials similarly situated would have hidden from public view after the humiliating ouster.

* * *

Let Rayala's punishment serve as warning to all officials in government and private offices who look at their female subordinates with lustful eyes.

Superiors in government and private companies should learn to treat female subordinates as persons, not playthings.

FOUR DIGIT
8 5 3 6
(In exact order)
SUERTRES
3 5 0

MEGALOTTO 6/45
8 9 12 21 30 38

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2003
METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Rizal CIDG chief relieved

Lina tells PNP and NBI: Coordinate moves

By Christian V. Esguerra and Nelson Flores

THE CHIEF of the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Rizal has been sacked over charges of extortion and arbitrary detention involving two 11-year-old girls allegedly mixed up in a drug pushing case.

CIDG chief Eduardo Matillano yesterday said he had relieved Chief Insp. James Brilliantes and his civilian agent, Edgar Ty, to give way to an "impartial investigation" of accusations against them by the National Bureau of Investigation.

"I don't tolerate my men (committing anomalies)," he told the INQUIRER. "If they're guilty, I won't hesitate to punish them."

The NBI has accused Brilliantes and his men of illegally detaining the two girls who were "rescued" from the CIDG office in Karangalan, Cainta, Rizal last June 25.

NBI director for Metro Manila Edmund Arugay said the girls were falsely accused of delivering drugs for alleged pusher Nancy Ramos to allow Ty to extort P150,000 from their families.

But hardly has the investigation begun when Matillano stopped short of clearing his men of any wrongdoing.

"If they were indeed guilty, the NBI should have arrested them then and there," said Matillano, referring to the confrontation between his men and NBI agents at the CIDG office in Rizal last June 25.

Matillano slammed NBI agents for "raiding" the office and "snatching" the two girls from the CIDG's custody.

"They had no business raiding our office," he said. "If they had problems with my men, they should have first called my attention. What they did was uncalled for."

Arugay on Sunday denied that his men raided the CIDG office.

The incident, he maintained, was a legitimate entrapment operation against Ty, based on the complaints of the girls' families.

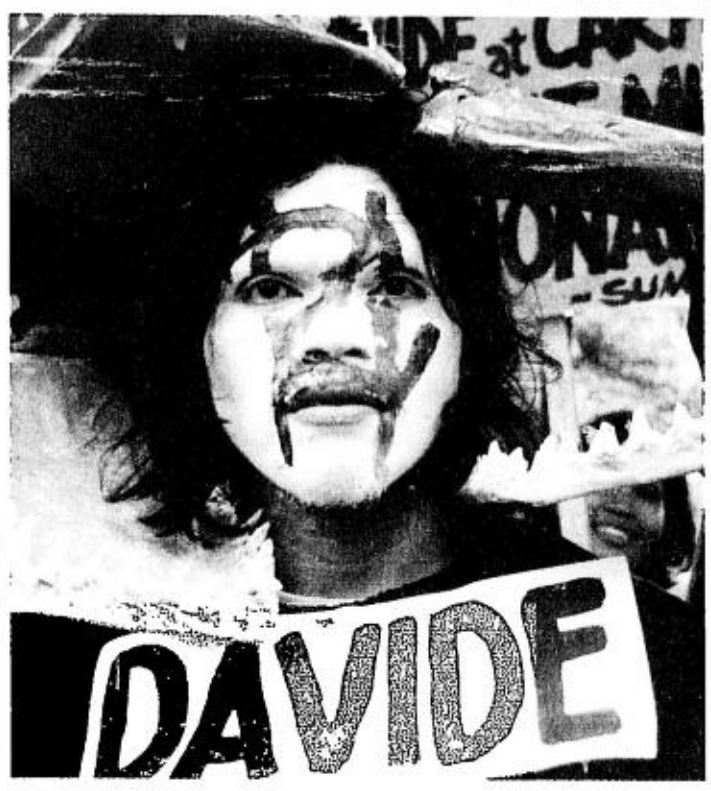
Besides filing the extortion complaint, the families also claimed that the CIDG had detained the children for four days without any charges being filed against them.

Arugay said the row could have been kept between the NBI and the CIDG had not Matillano issued last Friday a "false press release," claiming that the NBI intervened in the anti-drug operation.

"He issued the release because he knew his men were at fault," he told the INQUIRER Sunday.

And as the NBI and CIDG continued to trade accusations, Secretary Jose Lina of the Department of the Interior and Local Government asked the PNP and the NBI to properly coordinate their operations to avoid embarrassments similar to what happened in Cainta.

Lina said all law enforcement agencies should coordinate their anti-crime efforts to avoid function overlapping, work duplication and instances that could lead to misunderstanding even as he directed PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane to look into the matter.



PINTADO
One of several protesters stands outside the Supreme Court during a rally Monday to protest the High Tribunal's decisions on the PEA-Amari and Piatco cases which the demonstrators say have robbed people of their livelihood. ERIK ARAZAS

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Bayani backs regional jails

By Leila B. Salaverria and Edson Tandoc Jr.

METRO Manila Development Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday supported the idea of having several regional penitentiaries as opposed to the current setup of one centralized facility.

The Metro Manila Council would be presenting the plan to the Department of Justice in an effort to solve the problem of overcrowded jails and detention centers, he said.

According to Fernando, having regional jails would be one way of solving the congestion at the National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City, where many inmates live cheek by jowl with each other.

Under the proposal, when regional detention centers would have been put up, the existing NBP would then serve as the regional jail of the National Capital Region.

The MMDA chair also said that if inmates were incarcerated closer to home, it would be easier for their families to visit them.

Currently, inmates whose families live far from Metro Manila hardly get the chance to visit because of the cost and hassle of travel.

He added that such a plan would be more cost-effective than building a bigger penitentiary to accommodate all of the country's convicts.

The proposal came up after Metro Manila mayors noted the congestion in the local jails.

"The council wants to decongest the local

BAYANI/ A15

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Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

SPORTS

SPORTS TV Compiled by L. Mangulat

TENNIS: Wimbledon; Day 7 Highlights; 8 a.m. (r - 5:30 p.m.); Round of 16; 10:30 a.m. (r); Ladies Singles Quarter Finals; 7 p.m.; Star Sports - The action heats up as the field is further trimmed down at the All - England Club.

BILLIARDS: Rack 'Em Up 2; 8:30 a.m. (r - 1 p.m.) and 7 p.m.; ESPN - East meets West as Kim Won Suk battles Earl "the Pearl" Strickland followed by the match featuring Django Bustamante and Fabio Petroni.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Wimbledon survivors get serious /A18

■ NBA owner slam-dunks Air Jordan /A20

■ US tanker shatters world record /A20

Yugos, 2 tough Asian fives in Invitationals

By June Navarro

THE YUGOSLAVIAN junior national team and two formidable Asian squads will represent the foreign challenge in the Philippine Basketball Association Asian Invitationals scheduled to start at the end of the month.

Commissioner Noli Eala said the Jilin Yi Qi Tigers of the Chinese league and South Korea's Yonsei University have confirmed their participation along with the Yugoslavs in the Invitationals which will also feature six PBA ballclubs and the RP men's basketball team.

The offer to field a 6-5 and below United States Basketball League selection to be coached by former NBA star Darryl Dawkins in what is actually the PBA's second conference championship came too late.

"It would have been great to have them in the Invitationals but the slots for foreign participation have already been filled," said Eala.

Batang Red Bull, Talk N" Text, San Miguel Beer, Coca-Cola and the FedEx Express have already secured seats in the Invitationals based on their overall records in the All Filipino Cup.

The last slot will be disputed by Purefoods, Ginebra, Shell, Sta. Lucia Realty and Alaska in a single-round robin series beginning July 18.

The RP Men's team has been included to test its worth as defender of the Southeast Asian Games crown in Vietnam this December.

Meanwhile, championship protagonists Talk N' Text and Coca-Cola both declared themselves as underdogs in the title series which starts tomorrow at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes said he was not only impressed by the Phone Pals' gritty stand against the Alaska Aces but by the streak of luck of Talk N' Text mentor Joel Banal.

"He's having a run that coaches could only dream about," said Reyes of Banal during the Finals press conference in Greenhills yesterday.

But Banal said Coca-Cola is the better team due to its experience and explosive offense.

"I envy Chot. He could just sit down and watch his players win the game for him. Aside from championship experience, Coke is the envy of coaches because of its fluid offense," said Banal.

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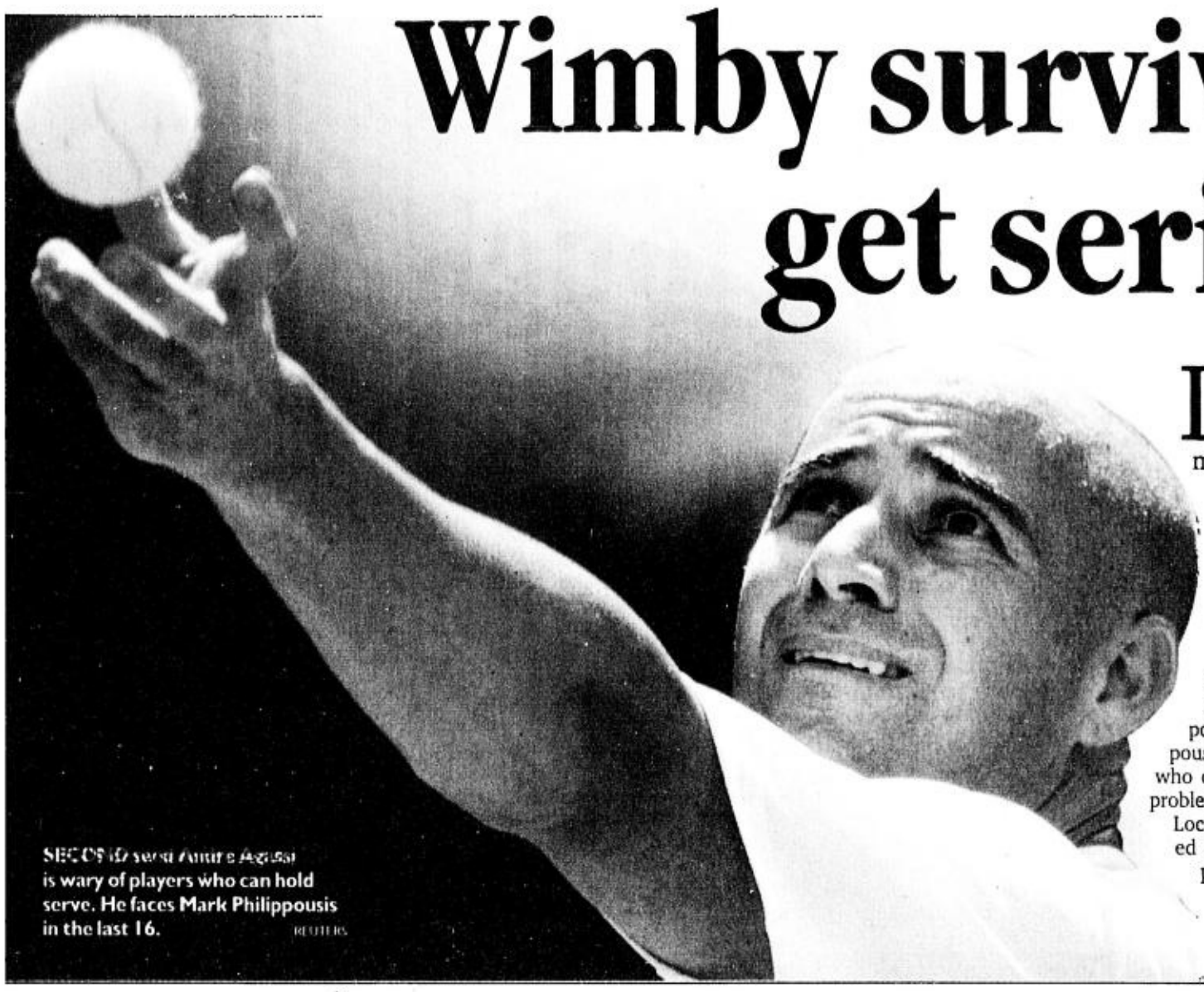

SECOND seed Andre Agassi is wary of players who can hold serve. He faces Mark Philippousis in the last 16. REUTERS

LONDON—Now it gets serious as all 32 survivors in the men's and women's singles play at Wimbledon on Monday and, in the men's draw at least, there is a chance of an upset or two.

Second seed Andre Agassi has yet to show consistent form and his fourth-round opponent, unseeded Mark Philippoussis, is a big-serving Australian who could cause the American big problems on the sun-scorched grass.

Local favorite Tim Henman, seeded 10, does not have Pete Sampras to worry about this time but last year's finalist David Nalbandian awaits him on centercourt.

American Andy Roddick, fifth seed but the bookmakers' favorite because of his red-hot serve, plays Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan. Roddick has not lost since the French Open.

The women's last 16 line-up contains the Williamses as usual and two Belgians–Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin-Hardenne–which is rapidly becoming the norm. But five Russians and two Japanese are also still there.

Philippoussis is no stranger to the final stages of Wimbledon, having reached the quarter-finals three times.

The 33-year-old Agassi knows Philippoussis poses a major threat to his chances of winning a second Wimbledon title 11 years after his first.

"Any time you're on grass playing guys that can hold serve, it's not easy," said Agassi. *Reuters*

Dayrit-Buhain meeting set

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee won't touch the P10 million promised by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo Sunday to augment the budget for the country's participation in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games.

How the money will be spent is expected to be touched, however, when POC president Celso Dayrit and Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain meet tomorrow to discuss vital details of the preparation for SEAG set this December.

Buhain said he didn't mind that Arroyo pledged the money directly to Dayrit and not to him as the head of the country's disbursement agency in sports.

"We deeply appreciate the concern and support First Gentleman Mike Arroyo has committed for the athletes. This will certainly help boost the country's bid in the SEA Games," said Buhain.

Mr. Arroyo announced his donation from his own funds during the Olympic Day Run along Roxas Boulevard the other day where the President was special guest.

Dayrit and Buhain are observing a ceasefire of sorts after weeks of trading barbs over issues concerning the SEAG, foremost of which is the composition of the national delegation.

Their feud ended after Ms Macapagal gave Buhain the go-signal to fund all the athletes to the SEAG. The final RP delegation is expected to reach 500 using the POC's more lenient standard.

Dayrit expressed his gratitude to the First Couple for showing their concern for the national athletes, assuring them that only those with the strongest possible chance of winning gold medals in Vietnam would go.

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Klitschko wants rematch

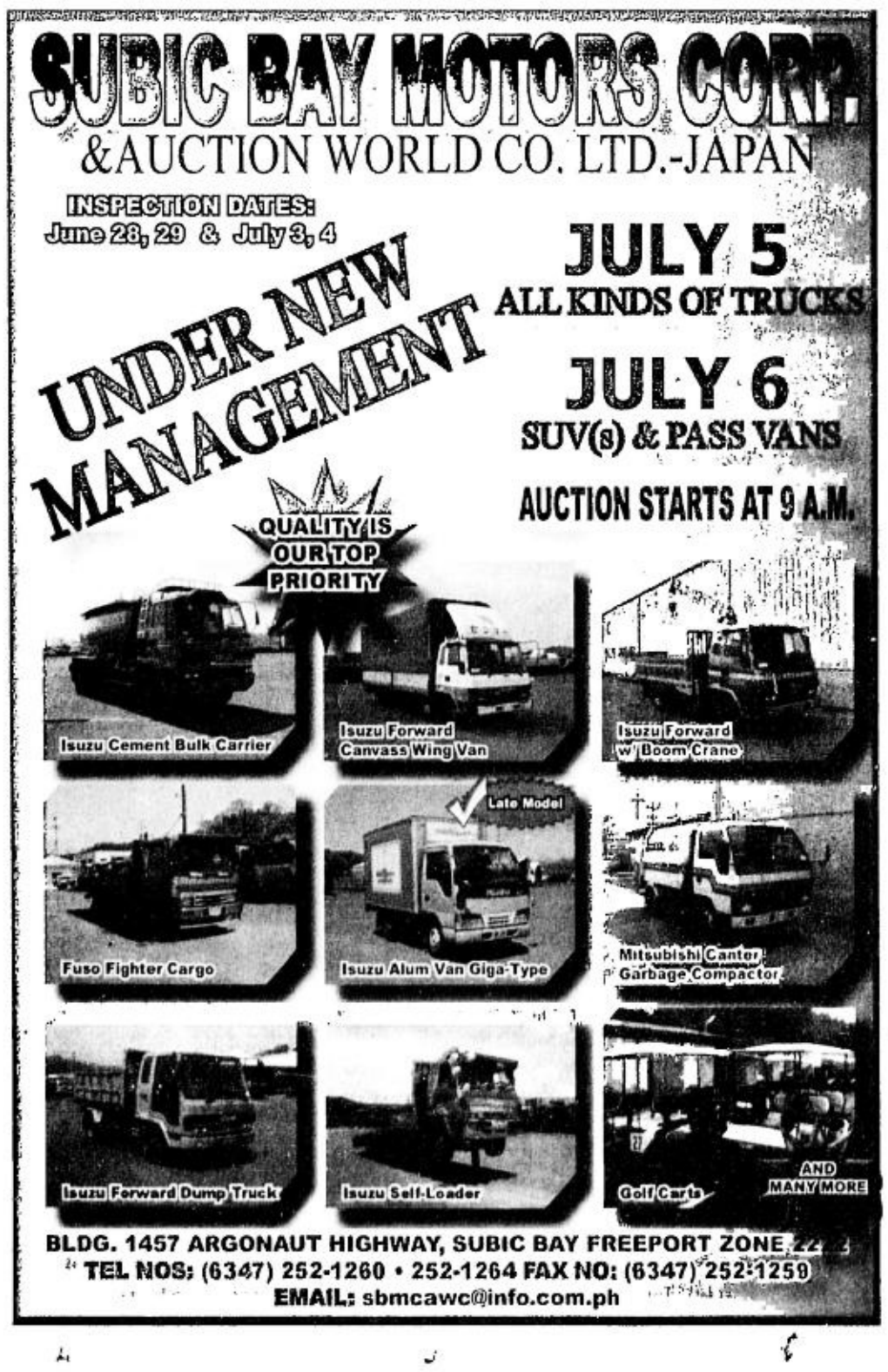
KLITSCHKO

KIEV, Ukraine—Vitali Klitschko, his face mostly healed after the pounding he took from Lennox Lewis a week ago, pushed again for a rematch against the WBC heavyweight champion Sunday.

Klitschko was leading on points from all three judges when his title bout with Lewis in Los Angeles was stopped by the ring doctor in the sixth round because of a deep cut over his left eye.

"I could see very well, and didn't know why the doctor stopped the fight," Klitschko complained at a news conference in the capital of his native Ukraine. "I will do my best to have a rematch against Lewis to cross all the T's."

A slight bruise, covered by makeup, was the only visible evidence of Lewis' hammering. A doctor removed 60 stitches from around Klitschko's eye four days after the bout, and said he was healing quickly and would be fit to fight in three months. *AP*



Stanford overcomes nerves, wins first LPGA title

GETTY IMAGES

STANFORD: Breakthrough.

GALLOWAY TOWNSHIP, New Jersey—American Angela Stanford won her first LPGA title here Sunday, matching the low round of her career with a final-round six-under-par 65 to take the $1.3-million ShopRite Classic.

Stanford finished the 54-hole event at 16-under par 197, three strokes ahead of Britain's Becky Morgan and four ahead of Canada's Lorie Kane and American Juli Inkster.

The victory left Stanford so stunned she could not recall her final round.

"I still don't know what has happened," she said. "I wish I could remember some of the rounds, I heard it was great."

Starting her final round with two birdies and an eagle at the par-5 third, third-year pro Stanford served notice she would not be intimidated by the pressure of her first final-group pairing on a Sunday.

Jennifer Rosales shot a 71 to be at 212. She pocketed $9,016. *AFP*

Toms strikes again

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—David Toms did not wait long to capture his second US PGA Tour title of the year.

Seven weeks after snapping an 18-month title drought, Toms became the seventh multiple winner this season, firing a seven-under-par 64 to pull away for a three-stroke victory at the St. Jude Classic.

Toms, the 2001 PGA Championship winner, finished with a total of 20-under-par 264. Toms was coming off a triumph in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Overnight leader Richard Johnson of Sweden tied for third with 2001 champion Bob Estes, one shot behind Zimbabwe's Nick Price, who shot a 62 Sunday for 267.

Lee Janzen bogeyed three of the last five holes to share sixth with Ben Crane at 269.

Through 26 events this season, seven players have combined for 17 titles. Tiger Woods, Davis Love and Canada's Mike Weir have three crowns apiece, with South Africa's Ernie Els, Fiji's Vijay Singh, Kenny Perry and Toms at two each. *AFP*

The bloodiest fight of all time

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

YOU think those 60 stitches needed to close the wound above Vitali Klitschko's left eye were gory enough, not to mention 15 more or so stitches on his left upper lip?

Think again, fellas.

The recent Lewis-Klitschko fight was but a boys' scuffle compared to a fight I have unearthed that happened years ago. A barroom brawl that broke bottles and windows, and noses and jaws, would not even approximate the brutality of the fight that I've discovered from documents found in a chest half-buried in our backyard.

I hope your hair would not stand on end after you're through reading this piece.

First, the story I am about to tell you will reduce Klitschko's injuries as mere scratches.

Second, it will make you feel lucky you were not around when that fight happened.

In his time, Nakaro Napigsa was unbeatable. He was so strong and good that he beat all his opponents by knockout. Until he met Makpel Mapasnok.

Mapasnok was Napigsa's 119th opponent. Like Napigsa, Mapasnok was also unbeaten going into the fight.

If Napigsa had but one foe lasting two rounds, Mapasnok's record was not something to sneeze at, too.

In Mapasnok's 118 fights, only one lasted three rounds; his first 117 foes, he knocked them all out in the first. Because it took him that long to dispatch his 118th opponent, Mapasnok was thought of possibly getting slowed down by age - although he was only pushing 23. In fact, he was booed after the fight.

"Maybe, it's time for you to retire!" someone from ringside hollered. Turned out the guy lost some money for betting on Mapasnok to win by KO in the first round.

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That's when the referee stepped in and declared, "It's a draw!"

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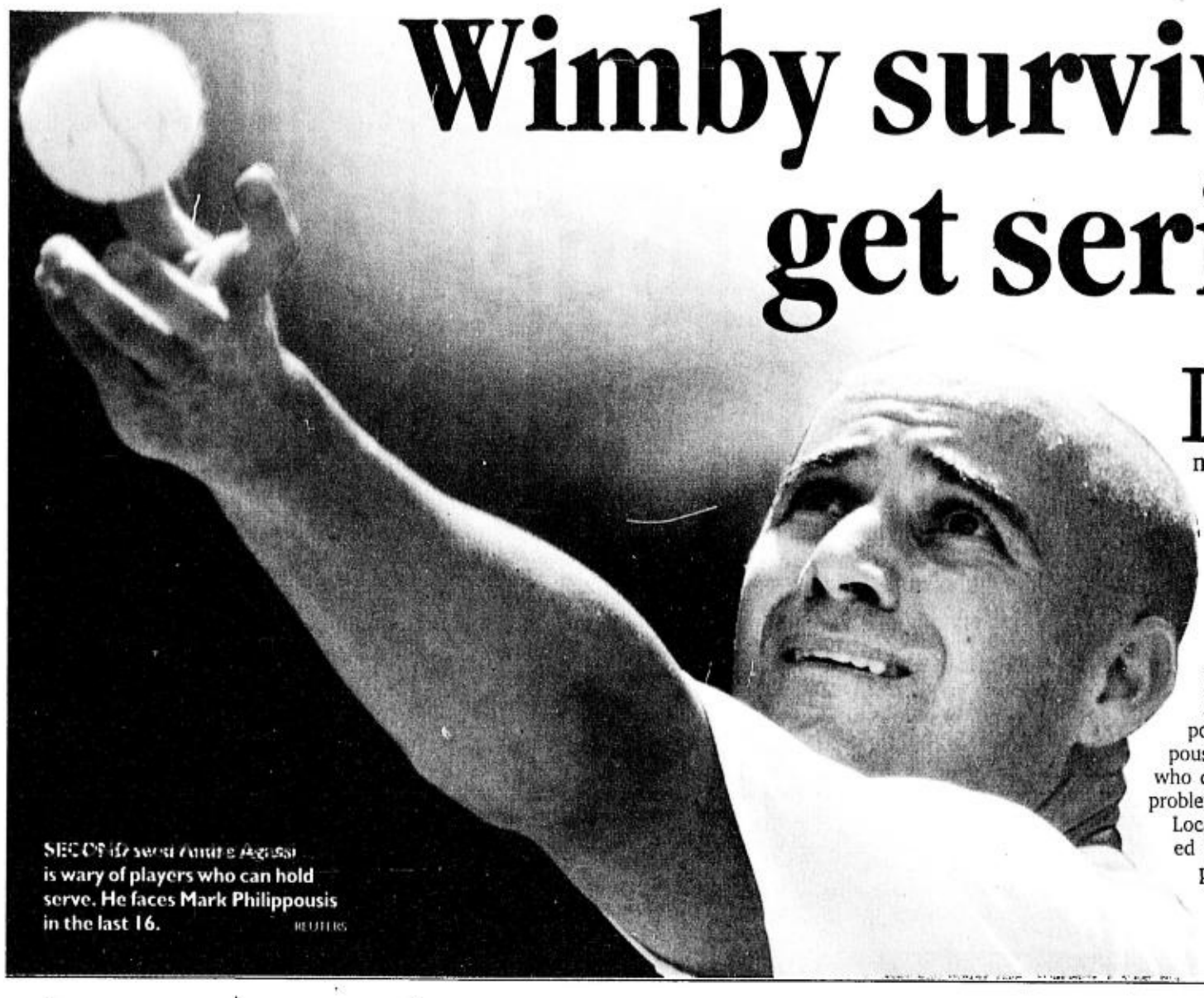
Wimby survivors get serious



SECOND seed Andre Agassi is wary of players who can hold serve. He faces Mark Philippousis in the last 16. REUTERS

LONDON—Now it gets serious as all 32 survivors in the men's and women's singles play at Wimbledon on Monday and, in the men's draw at least, there is a chance of an upset or two.

Second seed Andre Agassi has yet to show consistent form and his fourth-round opponent, unseeded Mark Philippoussis, is a big-serving Australian who could cause the American big problems on the sun-scorched grass.

Local favorite Tim Henman, seeded 10, does not have Pete Sampras to worry about this time but last year's finalist David Nalbandian awaits him on centercourt.

American Andy Roddick, fifth seed but the bookmakers' favorite because of his red-hot serve, plays Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan. Roddick has not lost since the French Open.

The women's last 16 line-up contains the Williamses as usual and two Belgians–Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin-Hardenne–which is rapidly becoming the norm. But five Russians and two Japanese are also still there.

Philippoussis is no stranger to the final stages of Wimbledon, having reached the quarter-finals three times.

The 33-year-old Agassi knows Philippoussis poses a major threat to his chances of winning a second Wimbledon title 11 years after his first.

"Any time you're on grass playing guys that can hold serve, it's not easy," said Agassi. *Reuters*

Dayrit-Buhain meeting set

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee won't touch the P10 million promised by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo Sunday to augment the budget for the country's participation in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games.

How the money will be spent is expected to be touched, however, when POC president Celso Dayrit and Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain meet tomorrow to discuss vital details of the preparation for SEAG set this December.

Buhain said he didn't mind that Arroyo pledged the money directly to Dayrit and not to him as the head of the country's disbursement agency in sports.

"We deeply appreciate the concern and support First Gentleman Mike Arroyo has committed for the athletes. This will certainly help boost the country's bid in the SEA Games," said Buhain.

Mr. Arroyo announced his donation from his own funds during the Olympic Day Run along Roxas Boulevard the other day where the President was special guest.

Dayrit and Buhain are observing a ceasefire of sorts after weeks of trading barbs over issues concerning the SEAG, foremost of which is the composition of the national delegation.

Their feud ended after Ms Macapagal gave Buhain the go-signal to fund all the athletes to the SEAG. The final RP delegation is expected to reach 500 using the POC's more lenient standard.

Dayrit expressed his gratitude to the First Couple for showing their concern for the national athletes, assuring them that only those with the strongest possible chance of winning gold medals in Vietnam would go.

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Klitschko wants rematch

KLITSCHKO

KIEV, Ukraine—Vitali Klitschko, his face mostly healed after the pounding he took from Lennox Lewis a week ago, pushed again for a rematch against the WBC heavyweight champion Sunday.

Klitschko was leading on points from all three judges when his title bout with Lewis in Los Angeles was stopped by the ring doctor in the sixth round because of a deep cut over his left eye.

"I could see very well, and didn't know why the doctor stopped the fight," Klitschko complained at a news conference in the capital of his native Ukraine. "I will do my best to have a rematch against Lewis to cross all the T's."

A slight bruise, covered by makeup, was the only visible evidence of Lewis' hammering. A doctor removed 60 stitches from around Klitschko's eye four days after the bout, and said he was healing quickly and would be fit to fight in three months. *AP*

Stanford overcomes nerves, wins first LPGA title

GETTY IMAGES

STANFORD: Breakthrough.

GALLOWAY TOWNSHIP, New Jersey—American Angela Stanford won her first LPGA title here Sunday, matching the low round of her career with a final-round six-under-par 65 to take the $1.3-million ShopRite Classic.

Stanford finished the 54-hole event at 16-under par 197, three strokes ahead of Britain's Becky Morgan and four ahead of Canada's Lorie Kane and American Juli Inkster.

The victory left Stanford so stunned she could not recall her final round.

"I still don't know what has happened," she said. "I wish I could remember some of the rounds, I heard it was great."

Starting her final round with two birdies and an eagle at the par-5 third, third-year pro Stanford served notice she would not be intimidated by the pressure of her first final-group pairing on a Sunday.

Jennifer Rosales shot a 71 to be at 212. She pocketed $9,016. *AFP*

Toms strikes again

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—David Toms did not wait long to capture his second US PGA Tour title of the year.

Seven weeks after snapping an 18-month title drought, Toms became the seventh multiple winner this season, firing a seven-under-par 64 to pull away for a three-stroke victory at the St. Jude Classic.

Toms, the 2001 PGA Championship winner, finished with a total of 20-under-par 264. Toms was coming off a triumph in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Overnight leader Richard Johnson of Sweden tied for third with 2001 champion Bob Estes, one shot behind Zimbabwe's Nick Price, who shot a 62 Sunday for 267.

Lee Janzen bogeyed three of the last five holes to share sixth with Ben Crane at 269.

Through 26 events this season, seven players have combined for 17 titles. Tiger Woods, Davis Love and Canada's Mike Weir have three crowns apiece, with South Africa's Ernie Els, Fiji's Vijay Singh, Kenny Perry and Toms at two each. *AFP*

The bloodiest fight of all time

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

YOU think those 60 stitches needed to close the wound above Vitali Klitschko's left eye were gory enough, not to mention 15 more or so stitches on his left upper lip?

Think again, fellas.

The recent Lewis-Klitschko fight was but a boys' scuffle compared to a fight I have unearthed that happened years ago. A barroom brawl that broke bottles and windows, and noses and jaws, would not even approximate the brutality of the fight that I've discovered from documents found in a chest half-buried in our backyard.

I hope your hair would not stand on end after you're through reading this piece.

First, the story I am about to tell you will reduce Klitschko's injuries as mere scratches.

Second, it will make you feel lucky you were not around when that fight happened.

In his time, Nakaro Napigsa was unbeatable. He was so strong and good that he beat all his opponents by knockout. Until he met Makpel Mapasnok.

Mapasnok was Napigsa's 119th opponent. Like Napigsa, Mapasnok was also unbeaten going into the fight.

If Napigsa had but one foe lasting two rounds, Mapasnok's record was not something to sneeze at, too.

In Mapasnok's 118 fights, only one lasted three rounds; his first 117 foes, he knocked them all out in the first. Because it took him that long to dispatch his 118th opponent, Mapasnok was thought of possibly getting slowed down by age - although he was only pushing 23. In fact, he was booed after the fight.

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Reyes, Django going to SEAG

By Dennis Eroa

BILLIARDS greats Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante will represent the country again in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games in December.

The two confirmed their participation in a star-studded nine-man billiards and snooker team which will try to win the overall title under the supervision of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines.

"Certainly, we have a very good chance of emerging as overall winners, but we should not be complacent. Others are getting better and better," said Reyes, who has already won four gold medals in the biennial games, including one from snooker in the 1987 Jakarta and 1999 Brunei SEA Games.

Both Reyes and Bustamante are being supported by Puyat Sports under patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat.

Reyes, however, noted that he needs to play in his favorite nine-ball event to boost his gold-medal chances.

The BSCP came under fire when it didn't field Reyes, awarded the Philippine Legion of Honor medal in 1999, in his favorite nine-ball event in last year's Busan Asian Games.

Reyes and Bustamante are expected to be backed up by Lining and Warren Kiamko.

The quartet were present during yesterday's launching of the 1st RP-Europe 9-ball billiards tournament which will start tomorrow at the Don Eugenio Lopez Jr. building at the ABS-CBN complex in Quezon City.

Playing for Europe are Mika Immonen of Finland, Ralf Souquet of Germany, Niels Feijen of the Netherlands and Marcus Chamat of Sweden.

All the matches will be shown at Studio 23.

Also present at the launch were billiards godfather Puyat, ABS-CBN head for sports Peter Musngi and Emmanuel Palabrica of the Games and Amusement Board.

Lim's condo ransacked

By Roy Luarca

THE CONDOMINIUM unit of Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim in Binondo, Manila was ransacked by a man who claimed to be a policeman yesterday.

The incident occurred on the same day that Lim received a subpoena from the Bureau of Immigration requiring him to appear at the BID offices on July 10 regarding a complaint filed by a group of referees.

"This is yet another form of harassment. The valuables in the house are intact so the intruder must be looking for something else," said Lim. "That intruder might even be after me and my family."

Lim's caretaker saw the intruder when he went to the unit at 11 a.m. yesterday. He was trying to open the door when it swung open and a man came out.

The intruder identified himself as a policeman, mentioned something about Lim being in the news before leaving hurriedly.

Lim said his caretaker found the house in disarray, the drawers forcibly opened.

When Lim saw the mess, he called up the Western Police District, which sent a team led by Sgt. Dominador Sanchez.

"I have an idea of the people behind this, but I won't be intimidated by their dirty acts," said Lim.

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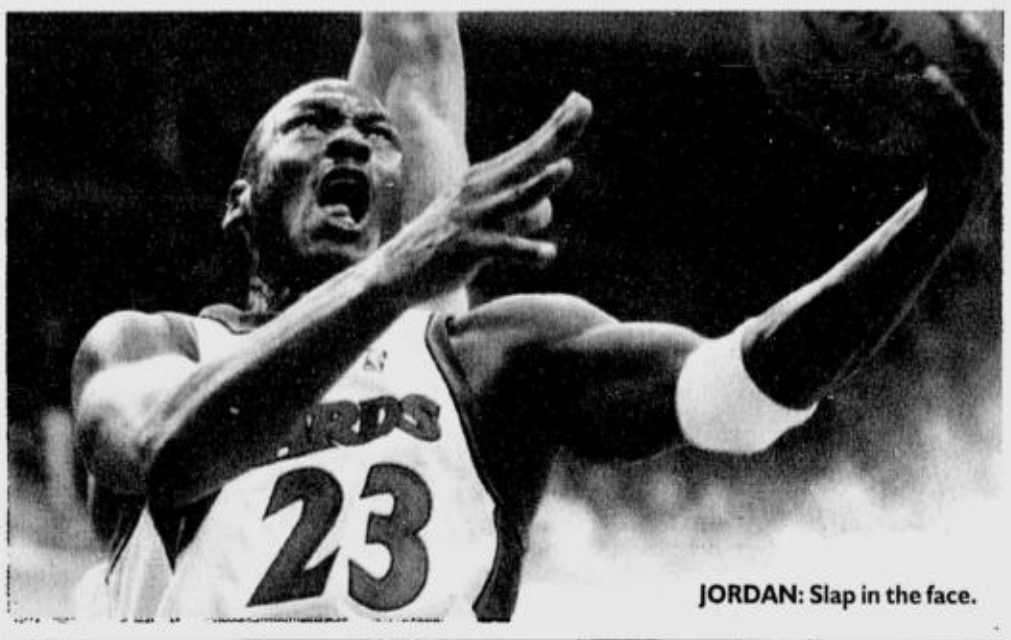
NBA owner slam-dunks Jordan

MJ foiled in bid to buy Milwaukee Bucks



JORDAN: Slap in the face.

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin—Michael Jordan once dominated National Basketball Association rivals, but the 40-year-old former superstar has been slam-dunked by an NBA owner for the second time in two months since retiring.

Milwaukee Bucks owner Herb Kohl has foiled Jordan's bid to purchase the NBA club, announcing here Sunday that he is taking the club off the market.

That move came hours after Kohl released Ernie Grunfeld from the final year of his contract as the Bucks general manager so he can take Jordan's former job as president of basketball operations for the Washington Wizards.

Jordan left that post in 2001 to play the past two seasons for the Wizards with expectations he would return to the role after retirement, which came in April after the Wizards failed to make the playoffs.

But in May, Wizards owner Abe Pollin told Jordan he was no longer welcome. In addition to snubbing a man who made millions of dollars for his club, Pollin oversaw the firing of coach Doug Collins, Jordan's handpicked selection.

Kohl, a US Senator, released a statement that said he has "decided not to sell the Milwaukee Bucks at his time, and will continue to own them, improve them, and commit them to remaining in Wisconsin." Newspaper reports in Milwaukee and Washington indicated Jordan's group was set to take over the Bucks. But Kohl's statement said talks had ended with Jordan.

"I must say that I enjoyed those conversations and was pleased with Michael's commitment of substantial personal time and personal financial resources to the proposed transaction," Kohl's statement said.

"I was also impressed with the quality of the professionals that he was prepared to engage had we gone forward, as well as his willingness to make every effort to keep the team in Wisconsin.

"I think Michael will be an excellent owner of an NBA franchise and have encouraged him, for the benefit of the NBA, to continue his consideration of such an investment.

"On balance, I simply decided that I am not yet prepared to sell the team at this time and have instructed my representatives accordingly."

Kohl, a Milwaukee native who has owned the team since 1985, was believed to be asking for $170 million, a price many area investors found too steep.

No minority had owned a North American professional sports team until the NBA approved the application of black businessman Robert Johnson for an NBA expansion franchise in Charlotte.

That team will start play next year and Jordan has been mentioned as a possible top executive with the fledgling Bobcats.

Adding to the slap in the face to Jordan was the timing of the rejection, the same day the Bucks released Grunfeld to join Pollin with the Wizards in the job Jordan had anticipated filling. *AFP*

It's a boy named Tim for Marion

DURHAM, North Carolina—Triple Olympic champion Marion Jones has given birth to a boy named after her partner Tim Montgomery, the 100 meters world record holder, the proud couple announced on Sunday.

"I'm so happy," said Jones, who won five medals at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney. "This is the greatest thing that has ever happened to me. He's a beautiful baby and Tim and I could not be more excited."

Jones' first baby was born at a North Carolina hospital at about 10 p.m. local time on Saturday and, although weighing in at just five pounds 14 ounces, was healthy, the American couple said in a statement. *Reuters*

Lietzke beats Watson by 2

TOLEDO, Ohio—Bruce Lietzke fired a final round two-over-par 73 but was able to hold off Tom Watson by two shots for his first career major title at the US Senior Open on Sunday.

After taking control of the tournament with a 64 in the third round, Lietzke missed 10 of 15 fairways on the final day but the four-shot cushion he enjoyed at the start of the round was big enough to keep him ahead of the field.

Lietzke finished the demanding 72-hole event at seven-under 277, one of only three sub-par scores the Inverness Club yielded.

Watson was second at 279, a shot ahead of Vicente Fernandez of Argentina.

"It's not the person that finished second or third, or the quality of the field that you beat, but it's, 'Did you survive a week on a golf course that tests every part of your game?'" Lietzke said.

A 13-time winner during a 25-year PGA Tour career, Lietzke claimed his second title of the season and seventh in three years on the Champions Tour. *Reuters*

PHELPS swims the butterfly during his world record-setting performance. GETTY IMAGES

US teener shatters 200 IM world mark

SANTA CLARA, California—Michael Phelps of the United States set a world record of 1 minute, 57.94 seconds in the 200-meter individual medley here Sunday at the Santa Clara Invitational swim meet.

The 17-year-old from Baltimore erased the old mark of 1:58.16 set by Finland's Jani Sievinen on Sept. 11, 1994 at the World Championships in Rome.

Phelps also lowered his own American record from 1:58.68, which had been set last August.

Phelps won the race here by 4.68 seconds over runner-up Kevin Clements.

The event, part of USA Swimming's Grand Prix series, serves as a tuneup for elite swimmers who will compete in next month's World Championships at Barcelona, Spain.

It was the third victory in as many days here for Phelps, who captured the 200 butterfly Friday in 1:56.06 and the 100 butterfly on Saturday in 52.65. *AFP*

SPORTSWATCH

Brazil soccer history

RIO DE JANEIRO—History was made in Brazilian football on Sunday when an all-female officiating trio took charge of a first division match for the first time. Referee Silvia Regina Oliveira, who showed eight yellow cards, and assistants Aline Lambert and Ana Paula Oliveira were jeered off the field after disallowing two goals by home team Guarani in their 1-0 defeat by Sao Paulo. Lambert was surrounded by furious Guarani players after the second decision late in the game but television replays suggested both decisions were correct. Replays also suggested the referee was right to allow Fabio Simplicio's 43rd minute goal to stand despite Guarani claims that he was offside. *AP*

RP Aquathlon host

THE PHILIPPINES will host the 2003 Asian Aquathlon Champions for the first time in Boracay on Dec. 1. Also to be held simultaneously with the event is the 1st Philippine Aquathlon Championship. The Asian Triathlon Confederation, the sport's ruling body in the region, confirmed the news to Tom Carrasco, president of the Triathlon Association of the Philippines. "This is a good opportunity again for us to project the Philippines as a perfect venue for outdoor adventure sports," said Carrasco. Appointed as overall organizer is Nino Sinco of the Alternative Events Group. Noel Rivera will be the race director. "We expect a lot of local and foreign tourists to join all the fun events that we are holding," said Sinco.

5-cock meet resumes

THE "Hattah-Hattah 5-Cock Derby" resumes with the second round eliminations at 5 p.m. today at the Rolign Mega Cockpit. A total of 84 entries are entered. For an entry fee of P8,800, host Rolly Ligon staked a guaranteed prize of P2.2 million. Third round is on Thursday, July 3. Eighteen bets tallied two victories each in last Saturday's opening round. These were Rb Maximus B, Don Bosco, RM Shogun, Blue Eyes, Pards, MSNU Red Hawk, 20/20, Crowsland SMR, Limbas, Alpha Sierra I, St. Michael, Golden 4, Jackie, Dream Catcher, Butong I, Nino and MTJ. Meanwhile, Rolligon also presents the P200,000 "Special 3-Cock Derby" on Aug. 16. Host is Group of 12 Foundation. For inquiries, contact 833-2275 and 833-1638.

Ali vs Martin Aug. 23

BILOXI, Mississippi—The two biggest names in women's boxing will meet in the ring Aug. 23 in Mississippi. Laila Ali, daughter of Muhammad Ali, and Christy Martin will fight in a scheduled 10-round bout in Biloxi, promoters said Sunday. Ali, who on June 21 stopped Valerie Mahfood in the eighth round on the Lennox Lewis-Vitali Klitschko undercard, is 15-0 with 12 knockouts. Martin, who helped women's boxing gain attention in the late 1990s, is 45-2-2 with 30 knockouts. Martin last fought in December when she won a decision over Mia St. John. *AP*

French Open drug tests

VERSAILLES, France—Drug tests were conducted for the first time on the European Tour when six players were tested after Sunday's final round of the French Open. Winner Philip Golding and runner-up David Howell, both from England, and Australia's Peter O'Malley, who tied third with Justin Rose, were tested together with three others drawn at random. "I've got to pass a test," Golding said after his win. "It's the first time I've been tested." *AP*

EUROPE GP

Ralf leads 1-2 Williams finish

NUERBURGRING, Germany—Only last month, BMW was threatening to end its relationship with the Williams Formula One team.

After the season's first six races, BMW expressed its dissatisfaction with the team's results and setbacks since last year.

But on Friday, BMW agreed to extend its contract with Williams through 2009, and it was no surprise.

This month, Juan Pablo Montoya won the Monaco Grand Prix, Ralf Schumacher and the Colombian went 2-3 in the Canadian GP, and on Sunday they capped the new multimillion deal by finishing 1-2 in the European GP.

Suddenly, Schumacher and Montoya have surged to third and fourth in the drivers' standings, and the happier partnership of Williams-BMW has risen from fourth to second behind Ferrari in the constructors' championship.

Schumacher took advantage of the misfortunes of his brother and polesitter Kimi Raikkonen to end a 24-race winless streak in F1 on Sunday, and five-time series champion Michael Schumacher became the first F1 driver to surpass 1,000 career points. *AP*

France wins; Cameroon booters get sympathy

MARCEL Desailly of France walks past a portrait of deceased Cameroon midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe. *AP*

SAINT-DENIS, France—The Confederations Cup final will be remembered for tears, not goals.

The death of Marc-Vivien Foe last Thursday created a somber finish for the much-criticized tournament, which ended Sunday when Thierry Henry scored seven minutes into overtime to give defending champion France a 1-0 victory over grieving Cameroon.

"For once, it was a match that I would not have minded losing," Henry said. "That's the first time I have felt like that about a game."

There was a subdued mood at Stade de France for the eight-nation, 12-day tournament's finale, which came three days after Foe collapsed and died during his team's semifinal win over Colombia in Lyon.

With the widow of the 28-year-old midfielder watching from the official box, players from France and Cameroon joined arms before and after the game, bonding to carry the burden of having to play the match. Cameroon goalkeeper Idriss Kameni kept thinking of Foe.

"I've hardly slept over the past few days. The images kept coming back into my head," he said. *AP*

Bulacan, Pampanga edge NBL opponents

GAMES FRIDAY
3 p.m.—AirPhil vs Spring-Bulacan
5 p.m.—Taguig vs Pampanga

WHAT they failed to do in regulation play, Spring Cooking Oil-Bulacan and Pampanga Bulls achieved in the extension period on Sunday.

Spring got two free throws from Mario Reyes in the last 1.6 seconds to edge Forward Taguig, 90-89, while Pampanga downed MayniLA, 87-82, in the National Basketball League (NBL) national championship at the Gov. Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center here.

Spring, which drew seven triples from Jay Lapinid, improved its win-loss record to 2-8, while pulling down Taguig to 4-3.

Veterans Billy Bansil and Dave Bautista and Elbert Alberto dropped a 10-3 run in the extra five minutes to power the Bulls to their fourth win in eight games.

Bansil wound up with 20 points and 12 rebounds while Bautista came through with 18 points and 17 rebounds.

Idle M. Lhullier Kwarta Padala of Cebu thus reclaimed the lead at 5-1 as MayniLA dropped to 7-2.

Spring led, 72-61, after three quarters, but Miko Roldan sparked a big Taguig comeback that forced the game into extension at 82.

MayniLA had a chance to win in regulation but with the score tied at 72, Mike Buendia flubbed an undergoal stab with 17 seconds left. *Roy Luarca*

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'Munting Tinig' must be supported

From page A24

to make a difference no matter the odds. She finds a rallying point for the whole community, a choral competition with a song that gives the film its title. We come to see how all of Melinda's devotion and willfulness gets wrapped up in seeing her kids sing on the stage, not really to win the competition altogether, but just to give the people in the village some hope and pride that they could accomplish something together.

Courage, compassion

In the end, though, as the film speeds towards a thunderous emotional crescendo, only a heart made of stone would not want Melinda and her kids to go all the way.

An unadorned sentimental story, "Mga Munting Tinig" inspires real tears and laughter. It has a warmth and sweetness that is especially hard to resist since it tells a story we all know by heart but one we constantly need to be reminded of.

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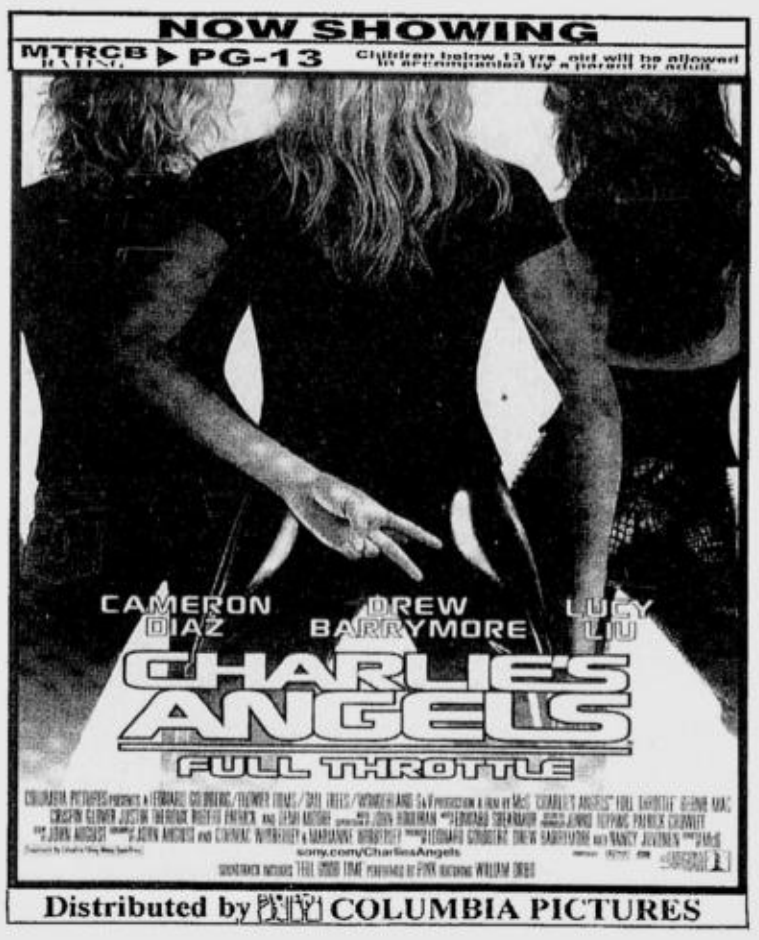

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QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
B	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
CINEMA-2	SANIB
CINEMA-3	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BERTUD NG PUTIK
CINEMA-6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-7	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-8	OPERATION BALIKATAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HULK
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CHARLIES ANGELS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	CHARLIES ANGELS
CINEMA-12	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-14	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-15	HULK
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA 2	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA 3	HULK
CINEMA 4	AGENT COOY PANGIT
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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McG having fun with 'Angels'

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
Contributor

ANGEL FASHION. The women in the audience will "just love" the fashion, says director McG. REUTERS

SANTA MONICA, California—He talks as fast as he thinks. He moves quickly. He looks at you directly in the eye. He's a whirlwind of creative energy. He is action personified.

That's Joseph McGinty Nichols, or simply, McG, the articulate, super-hyper and very optimistic director of the blockbuster action comedy "Charlie's Angels" and now, its sequel, "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle."

He walks into a roomful of journalists in this breathtaking seaside hotel right on Santa Monica Beach. He is casually dressed in a short-sleeved shirt and denims and prefers to remain standing while answering questions from the press. He starts interrogating all of us instead.

"What's your favorite scene in the movie? Why? So how's everybody doing? Did you see the movie last night?"

He so rapidly shoots the questions at us that there is barely time to digest the first query when he is off asking the next questions.

Trust exercise

"The naked scene? You like the part when they jump out of the sculpture naked?" he asks us. "They," of course, are his Angels—Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore and Lucy Liu.

"That was an exercise in trust," he points out. "You have to trust the director in that scene because there will be a lot of skin exposure. It takes a lot of trust in the director to agree to be naked on set and on the screen. I explained to them that it would be a very powerful scene and since we would be playing with shadow and light, there was really nothing to worry about.

"So when they jump out of the sculpture, the Angels are really completely naked."

McG, who still holds the record for having the best debut by a first-time director with the $40-million opening weekend of his first "Charlie's Angels," stresses that the sequel is "a humanity empowerment film."

'Equalist'

SHOW STOPPER

"I think these are girls who are boy-crazy but they are definitely, at the end of the day, still women who appreciate their sensuality and beauty. Although they go into environments that men traditionally dominate and they mix it up with the boys, they still find time to dress up and look beautiful.

"Drew uses this term 'equalist.' In other words, in their Angel world, sexuality, ethnicity, creed and physicality transcend everything."

McG admits that due to his MTV upbringing and his involvement in commercials and music videos before getting involved in features, he wants to create his own stamp in the film industry.

He discloses, "Filmmakers struggle to develop their own imprint so they can say, 'Hey, you have scenes like the Alfred Hitchcock picture,' or 'You have scenes that remind us of a Spike Jonze picture,' or 'You have a scene from a David Fincher film.' That's what I am trying to do and I use my music video and commercial video days as an opportunity to shoot a lot of film and figure what I like and don't like and, hopefully, become the best storyteller that I could become."

Stunt women

Right now, he adds, he wants to be the best in adult action musicals. "I try to create a picture that works for every demographic. You may be watching the picture but then you may remember a scene from 'Singing in the Rain.'

"The ladies will just love the fashion of the Angels. Little boys and girls may also get excited about the fact that a guy is walking through fire. The guys will love the surfing or motocross action scenes."

Did the girls do all that motocross scenes?

"Well, here's the thing," he explains, "the girls became so physically proficient with their stunts that they all wanted to ride the motorcycles and do their own thing. At that point, I would say, 'Please, Cameron, no more Evil Knievel stunts on the dirt track because tomorrow, we need your help to do this scene and that scene. That way, (producer) Nancy (Juvonen) and I were successful in telling the girls not to ride the motorcycles too much. We left it to the experts."

The experts included Mike Metzger who did the famous back-flip no-footer stunt, and other professional world champion motocross riders.

Family member

So did the girls get along with comebacking actress Demi Moore (as "fallen" angel Madison Lee)?

(Moore reportedly stole the thunder from the Angels during the Hollywood premiere of the Columbia Pictures movie when she arrived with her ex-hubby Bruce Willis on one arm and her current boyfriend, 25-year-old actor Ashton Kutcher, on the other arm. The Filipino-American ex-hubby of J. Lo choreographer-dancer Cris Judd, who performed with the Pussycat Dolls, also attended the premiere. A Filipino celebrity we met during the interview was amiable actor-TV host-model-spokesperson Paolo Bediones who also attended the "Full Throttle" junket.)

McG reveals, "I think it is a testimony to the charisma of the three girls. They not only get along well with each other but they also made Demi feel that she's part of the family."

McG specially credits Drew. "We brought Demi to Drew's house and Drew is so charismatic that there is just no way in the world that you can say no to her."

He adds that when Lucy was new, Cameron and Drew immediately made Lucy feel at home with them. "I think that's the great gift of Drew and Cameron," he says. "They are the sort of people who you hang out with for 30 or 40 seconds and you feel like you have been their best friends for 20 or 30 years. They are just so open and inviting that you can't help being close to them.

Learning from Demi

"Now these girls are so close to each other that they go to museums together. They have sushi together. They put their arms all over each other. They play with each other's hair. They finish each other's sentences. It just makes my job easier that they are the best of friends off-screen. They bring that effervescence in front of the camera and I just have to capture that on film and ultimately it gets projected on the screen."

When Demi arrived, McG relates, "she brought stature to the set. We all grew up with 'St. Elmo's Fire,' 'Ghost,' and everything great that she has done. We are all sort of looking at her in awe. She's so beautiful, so intelligent that we all learned a great deal from her.

"It took just three or four minutes until she became an intimate part of the family. Her kids were bouncing around and they sat on the director's chair. They wanted to be a part of the movie. That's the kind of vibe we wanted on the set because that's the kind of film we are trying to make.

Glass ceiling

"This is not a dark film. This is not the kind of film that will try to make you think too deeply of the human condition. This is a film that was designed to celebrate life and to make you feel exuberant. That begins with the very exuberant vibe on the set."

McG confesses, "We respect the door that Demi kicked down and actually make it an action franchise. People are so dicey when it comes to these films. Not all people are comfortable with kicking ass. It's sort of a glass-ceiling idea broken by Demi and the films she has made, like 'Disclosure' where she is a man-eater and 'GI Jane' where she shaves her head and does push ups."

He admits, though, "I've been spoiled by this movie. It has been fun. My day goes like this. Let's do comedy with Bernie Mac (Jimmy Bosley), then let's have fun with the girls. Tomorrow, we're going to the beach to do the surfing sequences. After that, we're going to blow up the car and then we're going to do the gymnastic sequences and so on and so forth."

Jaclyn apparition

And his favorite scene in the movie?

"I like the scene where Drew needed guidance and former Angel Jaclyn Smith as her Kelly character appeared to Drew," he discloses. "Jaclyn is so beautiful and timeless. When we brought up the special appearance to her, she was also very accommodating.

"That moment with Drew was so special that we even illuminated Jaclyn so the audience wouldn't know whether she was really there or she was just some kind of an apparition."

So what's next for him?

"I'm going to direct a play, hopefully in London," he discloses. "I also want to do an Evil Knievel movie."

MCG (right), with producer Nancy Juvonen and Manila media man Paolo Bediones JANET R. NEPALES

Ditsi . . . Will Oyo Boy take after Vic's ways with women?

From page A24

"booboo report:" On a TV show recently, a congressman talked about people who used their influence to secure sweetheart deals from the government. However, instead of using the word *influencia*, he kept saying *influenza*. Ah-choo!

English without pain

CORBAN Learning Center (842-6665) will hold remedial English grammar seminars for children aged 9-12 and 13-16 for 10 consecutive Saturdays starting July 19.

Mona Gonzales, proprietor, says, "Many students can do drills and get perfect scores, but when they write paragraphs, they're ungrammatical. Our modules go beyond defining verbs and nouns, and the like. They apply techniques that help children to write and eventually speak English grammatically, from instinct."

Corban is also giving English speech seminars for college students and professionals. Corban Learning Center is at Unit F, MB Aguirre Bldg., President's Ave. corner Elizalde St., BF Parañaque.

ALESSANDRA de Rossi and **Oyo Boy Sotto** were so lovey dovey as they went shopping for clothes in a hip boutique. They even brought along their pet dog, Tigas, whom they dress up as if it were their baby. Love each other, love our dog?

Not too long ago, Oyo Boy vacationed in Australia with his ex(?)-girlfriend **Anne Curtis**. They even professed their undying love for each other on national TV even if they had already split up.

Maybe Alessandra and Oyo are still in the getting-to-know-you stage, or do they already know how to get to each other?

OYO Boy Sotto

I suddenly remembered what Oyo's gorgeous mom **Dina Bonnevie** told me about him when we had dinner a few months ago. According to Dina, when Oyo falls in love, he falls hard. Even with her, he's so protective.

"*Minsan tuloy, para siyang* possessive boyfriend, *hindi anak ko*," Dina said in jest. She admitted that it's her daughter **Danica** who does not take love too seriously.

Oyo's dad **Vic Sotto** is known for his Don Juan ways. It remains to be seen if Oyo will take after his dad. Will he have short-lived love affairs with many women or intense, long-term relationships with only a few? Just because you loved somebody longer does not necessarily mean that you love that person more than someone new in your life.

Wonder if that applies to Oyo's case with his ex, Anne, and his current flame, Alessandra. Let's leave that to the mystery called love. A mystery that's best left unsolved because when you know all the whys and wherefores the magic vanishes.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

Aleck's attitude

I met **Aleck Bovick** for the first time when she was a guest in my show with **TJ Manotoc** and **Angelu de Leon**, "Celebrity DAT Com." She looks prettier in person.

Most sexy stars I've met are just telegenic so when I see them in the flesh, especially sans makeup, they are beyond recognition. As I kid my friends, "That star looks good because of camera trick. Optical illusion!"

Aleck is already immune to the never-ending talk that her Famas Best Actress award was paid for. For a neophyte in the biz, she's handling the controversy rather well by maintaining a tongue-in-cheek attitude with nary a trace of defensiveness.

I teased her, "Your rival during the Famas was **Ara Mina**, who people were saying was the rightful winner. Now she won as best actress in the Manila Film Festival. Would you accuse her of buying her trophy the way some quarters insisted that your award was bought?"

Aleck smiled. "'*Di ko gawain ang mag*-judge *at mag*-accuse *ng ibang tao*. Deserving si Ara *manalo. Sana i*-respect *din ng iba ang pagkapanalo ko sa* Famas."

That's the attitude. Aleck has surely survived her baptism of fire in the biz and is now all fired up for even bigger breaks.

Jessica's complete

IT'S JESSICA Rodriguez-Bunevacz's second lease on life. She was in critical condition when she gave birth to her and David's daughter, **Breanna Zofia** by C-section.

The proud mother exclaimed, "I almost died! I had blood transfusion during delivery. I also had my uterus removed. So I went through two major operations. I still can't believe I made it!"

The ordeal is more than compensated for every time she sees Breanna, and by David's all-out support. "Now more than ever I feel so blessed to have David as a husband," she said. "He took care of me for nine months and now he's a hands-on dad to our baby. She's really our princess, my elder daughter is our queen."

Jessica would like to thank the doctors of the Cardinal Santos Memorial Medical Center—Doctors **Greg Pastorfide**, **Del Rosario**, **De Guzman** and **Padilla**—for being such lifesavers. She was 50-50 during the operation but now her life is 100 percent complete.

Parties at Friends

IN BEHALF of my official headquarters, Friends@ the Square, at St. Francis Square in Mandaluyong City, I invite you all to come party with the fun-loving *tropa*. On July 7, 14 and 21, catch acoustic wiz **Paolo Santos**. Every Friday of July, groove to the music of the Kaktooz band. Alternating every Saturday are Civil Eyes and Emerge. Beer is only P30 every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. See yah at the Square!

Personal

CONGRATULATIONS to our ever-reliable writer in "Celebrity DAT Com" **Tofie Runas** and his soon-to-be wife **Maureen Canete**. Enjoy the adventures and misadventures of married life, bud.

Happy birthday to my *Tito* **Tad Jimenez**. Thanks for being a father figure and a *barkada* all these years.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

'Munting Tinig' must be supported

COUNTRY LIFE. 'Mga Munting Tinig' is a story we would like to live out ourselves, whoever and wherever we are.

Theater not even half full, while US action-comedy's premiere is packed

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.

FOR ME, the saddest part of watching "Mga Munting Tinig" happened shortly before the film's opening credits started rolling, as I looked around the theater and was disappointed to see that it wasn't even half full.

I thought to myself, just a few days ago, I was inside this same theater (SM Megamall Cinema One), with the same movie company (Warner Brothers) sponsoring another premiere ("Charlie's Angels"), and there was not one empty seat in the house. People, in fact, were crowding the aisles and sitting on the floor, and celebrities came in droves to see the Hollywood blockbuster.

Now here I am, this time attending the premiere of a homegrown film that has been lighting up art-house theaters abroad the last few months, a film that has been written about and praised by both local and foreign film critics and the crowd is not even bigger than the ones attracted by B-movie reruns shown in those decrepit cinemas along Rizal Avenue, the ones where sexual favors are offered together with the onscreen entertainment.

Cheating ourselves

Perhaps it's that old, crippling colonial mentality at work again. Or perhaps our constant exposure to the harshest realities has naturally bred an aversion to films that communicate the same unappetizing truths about life. Perhaps teaching is so unpopular a job, so looked down upon, that even a film about teachers gets the snub.

Whatever it is, it's a real pity, because we would all be cheating ourselves if we fail to support a film as genuinely moving as "Mga Munting Tinig." Sometimes, I guess, we don't really know what we're missing even if it's right before us.

The film's straightforward story focuses on Melinda (the cinematic natural, Alessandra de Rossi), a fresh education graduate from the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila who is assigned to teach elementary kids in a tiny rural school.

System flaws

Melinda, as we come to know, is not one of those for whom teaching is a last resort or a fall-back position. She chose the road less traveled over the easier path offered by an opportunity to immigrate to the US, courtesy of her mother who lives and works there. And her dedication is equally matched by her competence.

These sterling qualities somewhat ruffles the feathers of the old-timers at the school, particularly the world-weary officer in charge, Ms Pantalan, played convincingly by Dexter Doria. Doria's character may have been like Melinda once. The dialogue reveals she was voted "Teacher of the Year" in the province several times in the past, but now practical concerns like two grown-up children studying in Manila have made her both a casualty and perpetrator of the nightmarish flaws of the Philippine public school system.

Melinda's fellow teachers are not that much better. One atrociously murders the English language every time she opens her mouth (and she teaches English, of course), while the other demands that her students do her house chores as part of their "extra-curricular activities."

Self-defeating

The parents of Melinda's students are not too fond of her either. They accuse her of filling their sons and daughters' minds with dreams that are useless to their hardscrabble agricultural existence. In their world, working the land and putting food on the table are everyday priorities and education is only a trifling pursuit.

Thus, Melinda has more problems keeping kids in school than she has teaching them. She arrives on her first day of class to find only a handful of students. It's harvest time, they tell her, and the others have to help out in the farm. Later, we see her wards being asked by their parents to quit school for various reasons—one just because she's a girl and knowing how to read and write is supposedly already enough.

It's interesting how the early scenes exploit the obvious angles of the film. "Mga Munting Tinig" is not a pumped-up melodrama or an inspirational tearjerker, but a matter-of-fact look at poverty in the countryside and the kind of self-defeating culture it has created.

And though the film gives us many details about the sad realities plaguing the Philippine education system, we get a sense that the saddest of them all is the system's failure to bridge the ideological divide that victimizes those for whom education is supposed to help the most.

Impossible idealism

Education has failed to give the poor people in Melinda's village hope for a better future. They live in a world devoid of dreams. "Only the rich can afford to dream," a parent admonishes her child in one scene. In another, a student's bold confession that he wants to be a pilot someday is met with mockery as his classmates think his dream is too good for him.

The two characters in the film who dream of a better life—one through a principled rebellion, the other by working overseas—meet ignominious defeats.

In the midst of such desolation, director Gil Portes and his fellow writers, Senedy Que and Adolf Alix, highlight Melinda's ingenuity and her commendable, if not impossible, idealism.

The young teacher goes to school charging and chasing windmills, looking

MUNTING/ A22

THE CREATORS. Director Portes and star De Rossi, with writers Sennedy Que (right) and Adolf Alix Jr. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Ditsi Carolino's 'Riles' makes waves abroad

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FILIPINOS are making waves in movie festivals abroad not just in feature filmmaking but also in documentaries. Gifted documentarist **Ditsi Carolino** is going from one place to another—New York, Toronto, London—screening her latest documentary, "Riles," to great acclaim.

In New York, "Riles" was shown at the Walter Reede Theater at Lincoln Center. The screening was sold out, and the audience was very responsive.

In London, Ditsi's documentary was shown at The Other Cinema to an enthusiastic crowd of Brits and some Pinoy students.

At Toronto's HotDocs festival, "Riles" was screened at the Bloor cinema, where it got the best response to date. HotDocs is deemed one of the best docu showcases in the world, and is valued for its mix of good programming and high level of industry professionals who attend its seminar.

Ditsi won't be through with her festival tour with "Riles" until August or September. She should then schedule the Philippine premier of "Riles" so we can see for ourselves what all these viewers abroad have been raving about.

For our part, we have no doubt that "Riles" is an exceptional documentary. We've kept tabs of Ditsi's filmmaking career for over 10 years now, ever since we saw her early work, a documentary on young scavengers at Smokey Mountain, when we judged a CCP short film and video competition.

There were some 70 entries in that contest, but Ditsi's documentary was the best by far, so we started writing about her to let people know that we had this outstanding young documentarist in our midst, who deserved to be helped in developing her ability.

Soon enough, festivals abroad got wind of Ditsi's exceptional work, and she won some international awards and citations. Among her works are docus on child workers and Filipinos in Japan.

Nanette at 50

AFTER **Mitch Valdes**, it's **Nanette Inventor's** turn to turn 50. To celebrate the event, she's performing in a special show, "Fat, 50 and F-a-a-a-bulous," at 9 p.m. on July 3 at Onstage (Greenbelt 1).

Nanette's special guest is Gary Valenciano, and she will be backed up by Powerplay. Floy Quintos directs, and musical direction is by Ding Faustino.

Call Ticketworld at 891-5610.

Feedback

Ms **Clara Silva**, one of our favorite phone pals, is all praises for the PDI comic strip "Tuldok," which she compliments for its witty and original takes on contemporary life and issues. **Papu** and **Tatum Milambiling**, take a well-deserved bow!

Next, Ms Silva says she agrees with us that **Michael V** is an outstanding comedian. Aside from his versatility, she admires him for his refusal to go down to the level of "green" and "brown" jokes, as so many local comics have.

Finally, Ms Silva shares this

DITSI/ A23

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ADB sees Asian economies growing by 5%

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE ASIAN Development Bank still expects the Asian region, including the Philippines, to grow by about 5 percent this year despite the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

ADB President Tadao Chino said during the bank's annual governors' meeting yesterday that Asia's "robust performance" compared to other regions would be based on the steady growth of domestic and export demand from the Asian countries.

However, Chino warned that the economic outlook for 2003 was also highly dependent on global economic movements and susceptible to risks associated particularly with disruptions in tourism, trade, investment and other services.

He encouraged Asian economies to remain vigilant to prevent the recurrence of the SARS disease and reported that the bank has recently signed an agreement with the World Health Organization on how to prevent the disease in the longer term.

He noted that the bank's thrust in the region remained to be poverty reduction, how to encourage a private sector-led development and how to achieve environmental sustainability.

"Over the past year, optimism and hope have been clouded by uncertainties such as heightened geopolitical tensions and persistent threats of terrorism," Chino said. Behind the uncertainties, he said the underlying problems continued to be deprivation, lack of opportunity, inadequate participation, inequity, and a sense of powerlessness--all being dimensions of poverty.

On private sector development, Chino said the ADB has been working with its developing member-countries to promote a healthy and vibrant private sector by improving infrastructure--such as transport, communications, energy and water supply--and by supporting policy, institutional, regulatory and judicial reforms that improve governance.

On environmental sustainability, Chino said the bank has forged an agreement with the Global Environment Facility to address environmental problems in the People's Republic of China and Cambodia.

Chino said the ADB needed the continued guidance and strong support of all its shareholders to respond to numerous and complex development challenges.

Chino announced that donor-countries have agreed to replenish the bank's concessional Asian Development Fund that now amounts to $1 billion. He said te first meeting of donors was expected to take place in Copenhagen this October.

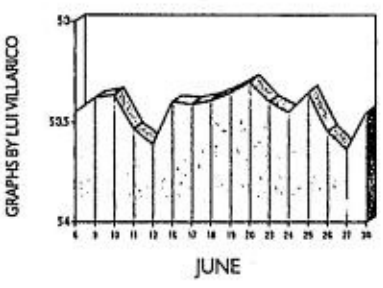
The ADF is the ADB's most important resource to assist poorer member-countries. Chino said the current demand for the ADF now exceeded available resources. The bank now funds post-conflict rehabilitation of countries including the Philippines, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and other Central Asian republics.

As nongovernment organizations clamor for greater accountability from the ADB, the impact of its projects, the bank has put up a new accountability mechanism to improve on project delivery and enhancing the participation of people to be affected by their projects.

At the country level, Chino said the ADB recognized the need to more actively engage civil society, noting that in May, the bank introduced a medium-term strategy to strengthen tripartite cooperation among the bank, its members and NGOs to reduce poverty.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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₱ 53.455 = $ 1
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¥ 119.82 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., June 30, 2003

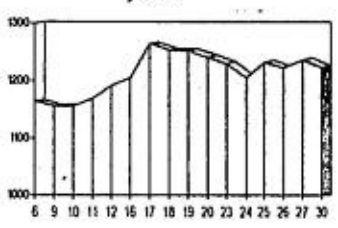
GOLD: $345.30-345.80
per ounce Hong Kong, June 30, 2003

June 30, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.874355	1.000000	53.706000
Japan	Yen	0.007310	0.008360	0.449000
United Kingdom	Pound	1.442249	1.649500	88.588000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112132	0.128245	6.887500
Switzerland	Franc	0.648006	0.741125	39.802900
Canada	Dollar	0.649691	0.743052	39.906400
Singapore	Dollar	0.497867	0.569411	30.580800
Australia	Dollar	0.581430	0.664982	35.713500
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.319306	2.652590	142.460000
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.233156	0.266660	14.321200
Brunei	Dollar	0.496454	0.567795	30.494000
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000121	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020833	0.023827	1.279700
UAE	Dirham	0.238055	0.272264	14.622200
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.143700	61.423600
ArgentinaPeso	0.313389	0.358423	19.249500	
Brazil	REAL	0.303807	0.347464	18.660900
Denmark	Kroner	0.134578	0.153917	8.266300
India	Rupee	0.018884	0.021598	1.159900
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.230124	0.263193	14.135000
Mexico	New Peso	0.084048	0.096126	5.162500
New Zealand	Dollar	0.507992	0.580990	31.202600
Norway	Kroner	0.120525	0.137845	7.403100
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015180	0.017361	0.932400
South Africa	Rand	0.116348	0.133067	7.146500
Korea	Won	0.000732	0.000837	0.045000
Sweden	Kroner	0.108913	0.124564	6.689800
Syria	Pound	0.020818	0.023810	1.278700
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025336	0.028977	1.556200
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000548	0.000627	0.033700

STOCK MARKET

Stocks down on profit-taking

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX
JUNE



STOCKS succumbed to profit-taking yesterday, dropping 1.12 percent given the lack of fresh news with investors waiting for the release of first-half corporate earnings.

The main index fell 13.80 points to 1,222.80 but the market has remained 20.07 percent up so far this year.

(See stock market report on Page B4)

"The absence of market moving news led to profit-taking. This is just a technical correction," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

Value turnover rose to P494.62 million from Friday's P478.97 million.

In the broader market, losers beat gainers 44 to 26 and there were 31 stocks unchanged.

Vistan said he expected the market's negative bias to persist in the next sessions given that some blue chip stocks were still hovering at overbought levels after a rally earlier this month.

"Subsequent sessions will be characterized by consolidation between 1,190 and 1,240. I guess the market needs new developments to be inspired again. We're also waiting for the first-half earnings results."

The market was also waiting for the central bank's Monetary Board meeting on Thursday to find out whether banks' reserve requirements will be cut to boost liquidity in the system.

Increased liquidity normally lifts the equity market following the absence of other investment outlets.

"Things to watch out for are the June inflation data and whether the central bank would cut banks' reserve requirement. That will provide more liquidity for trading," Vistan said.

June inflation figures are expected to be out this week.

Metrobank ended unchanged at P30 despite news that it would issue 10-year, long-term notes to generate $200 million.

Bank of the Philippine Islands, the country's second largest, fell 1.08 percent or 50 centavos to P46.

Reuters

Picop spins off paper mill assets

PUBLICLY listed Picop Resources Inc. will spin off its pulp and paper mill assets into a wholly owned unit called New Paper Industries Corp.

Picop said its operations have been adversely affected by having to adopt and implement many common policies affecting both the company's industrial and non-industrial activities at the same time.

"The spin off of Picop's pulp and paper assets is to enable the industrial activities to adopt strategies and policies finely tuned to its particular requirements and objectives," Picop said.

Picop said the spin off of its pulp and paper assets would be allowed to sufficiently mature before Picop proceeded to the "next phase." The company did not elaborate.

Picop said that it would complement the operation of the new spin-off company.

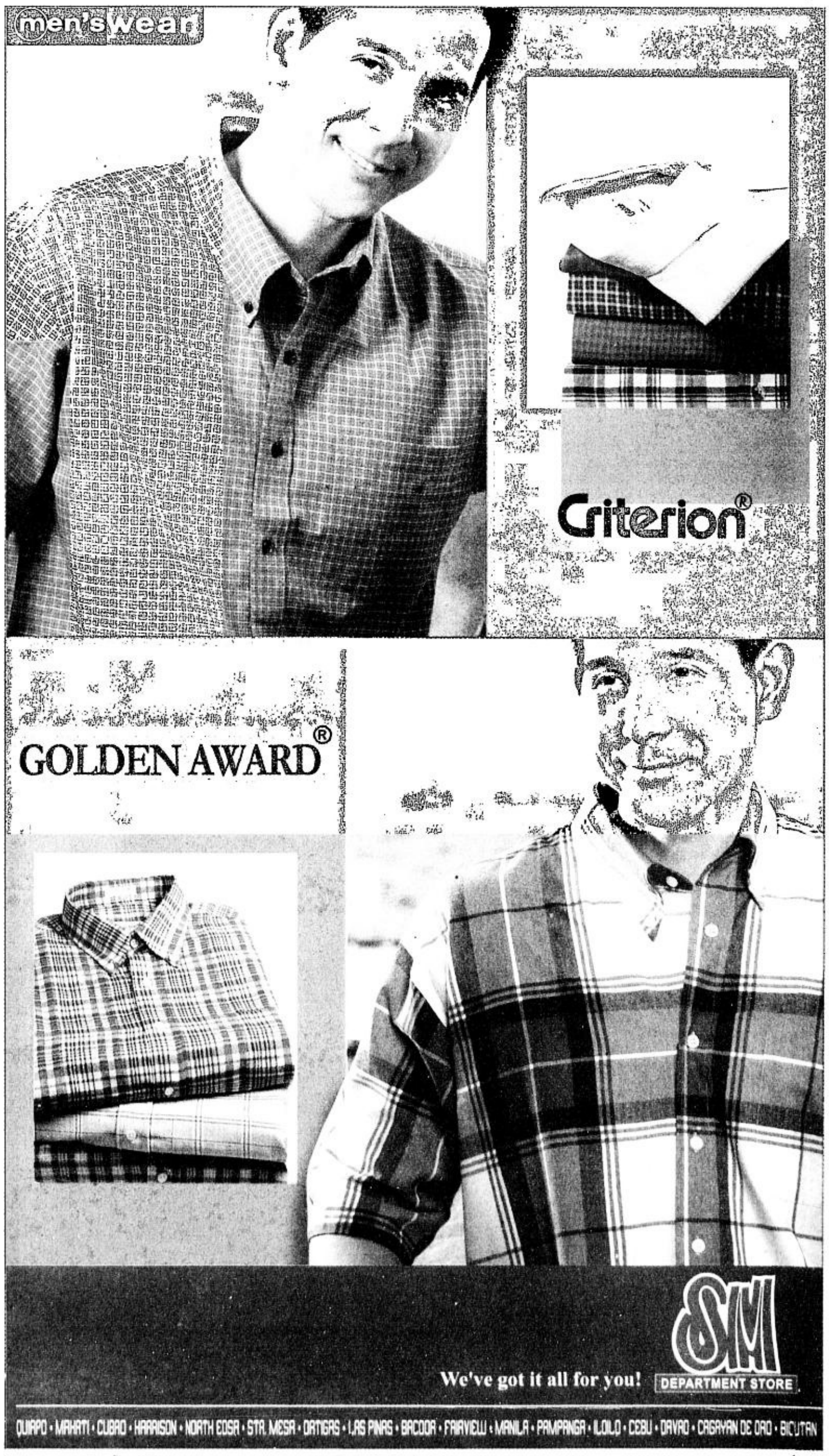
Elena R. Torrijos

INTEREST RATES

June 30, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 30-Jun-03	MART1 27-Jun-03
1 Month	6.5304	6.5393
3 Months	6.6643	6.6448
6 Months	7.4411	7.3712
1 Year	7.8283	7.825
2 Years	8.8	8.7617
3 Years	9.7867	9.7233
4 Years	10.1943	10.205
5 Years	10.5067	10.5367
7 Years	11.3417	11.3467
10 Years	11.6883	11.66
20 Years	12.0867	12.0917
25 Years	12.4383	12.4217

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG



Treasury cancels bond auctions worth ₱15B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Treasury yesterday announced the cancellation of three successive local bond auctions worth P9 billion originally slated for July.

The Treasury also announced the P6-billion reduction in the size of treasury bonds for sale next month.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government could afford to cut its domestic borrowings following the recent sale of the three- and five-year retail treasury bonds that raised P63.7 billion.

The Treasury has scrapped the auction of treasury bond auctions scheduled for July 1, July 8 and July 15, when the government had intended to sell P3 billion worth of bonds.

The Treasury is also bringing down the amount of treasury bills to be auctioned off by P1 billion per tenor to P3 billion for the 91-day bills; P2 billion for the 182-day, and P1.5 billion for the 364-day debt papers.

The auction committee led by the Treasury sells P3.5 billion worth of treasury bonds weekly and P9.5 billion worth of treasury bills twice a month.

The government said the funds raised from the sale of RTBs were equivalent to $1.2 billion.

This would mean a big adjustment in the government's borrowing mix for the year. This originally consisted of P103.27 billion in peso and P95.281 billion in foreign currencies to complete a net borrowing program of P198.551 billion.

Gov't backs ₱6-B NSC plant rehab

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT is pushing for the P5.95-billion rehabilitation of National Steel Corp.'s steel plant in Iligan to make it an integrated facility that can produce raw as well as downstream steel products.

In line with this, the government is looking for investors who will finance and undertake the project.

According to the task force handling the ISP integration, developing the plant to become a producer of all steel products including raw materials such as thin slabs (used for hot rolled coils) would make the plant more profitable and this prospect should make the project attractive to investors.

The task force said the plant had focused on the production of consumer steel products and had made the country dependent on imported raw materials.

The feasibility study presented to the media yesterday indicated that the plant's rehabilitation and integration plan would yield earnings before interest of P800 million in the first stage, P1.6 billion in the second and P2.13 billion in the third.

The task force, which is under the Office of the Vice President and created through Administrative Order No. 45, said the project was expected to be completed within five to six years. By then, NSC's plant will have developed to include various facilities such as iron and steel making plants, ladle metallurgy plant and thin slab caster among others.

Antonio Arizabal, executive adviser to the task force, said that because the country was not producing raw materials for steel products, it has been affected by price fluctuations in the world market.

"The supply of steel has steadily become tighter as developing countries (buyers) set up more downstream processing facilities. Exporting countries (sellers) are opting to produce higher value-added products," he said.

He added that the creation of an integrated facility would help the steel industry become independent from external market developments and lessen cost of production.

NSC's plant integration, Arizabal said, was expected to save for the country $350 million in steel imports and generate hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Arizabal said the task force was focusing on getting investors in the project and had virtually disregarded the option of making the government reacquire ownership of the steel plant. "One of the task force's roles is to look for investors for the steel plant's rehabilitation," he said.

Sixto Roxas, program coordinator, said the task force would be conducting a roadshow of the ISP integration and rehabilitation plan before possible investors. He said the task force has already started looking for investors and has given itself until September to have an investor committing to the undertaking. "We are taking a proactive approach in selling this to investors," he said.

Roxas added the task force was keen on finding a long-term investor who would be willing to finance all the four stages of ISP rehabilitation and integration and that will adhere to the principles of the plan. "We don't want to get just any investor who would buy the plant and then decide on their own as to what they want to do with it," he said.

Smart awards $70M worth of deals to Finnish supplier

CELLULAR giant Smart Communications Inc. has awarded more than $70 million worth of contracts to Finnish telecommunications equipment supplier Nokia for the expansion of Smart's global system for mobile communications (GSM) network.

The network improvement program will support the company's capacity expansion efforts as well as its preparation for the adoption of more advanced platforms.

"Our market projections show continued growth in the mobile arena. We are very pleased with the growth of multimedia messaging and mobile data," Smart's administration and materials management division head Ramon Fernandez said in a statement yesterday.

Equipment deliveries have started, with installation expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Under the agreement, Nokia will provide Smart with enhanced data for GSM evolution (Edge)-ready equipment and Flexihopper microwave radios.

Nokia will also augment Smart's short messaging system capacity as well as provide systems implementation and integration services. *Abigail L. Ho*

Residents' investments in RP debt papers down in Q1

INVESTMENTS of residents, including banks and government institutions, in Philippine debt papers stood at $5.926 billion in the first quarter of the year, slightly down from $5.972 billion in end-2002.

Local investors' placements in Republic of the Philippines or ROP bonds were substantially higher than the $5 billion in end-March 2002, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

Market sources said the slight drop in local holdings of ROP was partly due to a decline in Philippine sovereign bond float this year compared to year-ago level.

In the first quarter, the government sold only $1 billion worth of bonds, lower than the $1.3 billion sold in the same period last year.

As the residents' investments in ROP bonds shrunk, the country's external debt grew 3.6 percent or $1.9 billion to $55.8 billion in the first quarter, from $53.9 billion in the last three months of 2002. Year-on-year, foreign debt went up 4.5 percent or $2.4 billion from $53.4 billion.

Last year, the BSP said the country's foreign debt was substantially reduced following substantial increases in local holdings of ROP bonds. The residents' investments in Philippine dollar debt papers are excluded from the computation of the foreign debt. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Bank exec files complaint vs StanChart

By Elena R. Torrijos

A SENIOR official of Standard Chartered Bank yesterday filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission a complaint against the bank for selling in the Philippines unregistered securities, specifically foreign mutual funds, in violation of the Securities Regulation Code.

In his complaint affidavit, SCB head of HR service delivery and industrial relations Manuel Baveria said that despite previous Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas directives ordering the bank to stop selling Global Third Party Mutual Funds, the SCB still sold the product to him, other bank employees and bank customers.

"SCB has sold its global third party mutual fund to more than 1,000 public investors involving billions of pesos without any official registration from the Securities and Exchange Commission to sell securities and without authority from the BSP to engage in selling foreign securities as a bank," Baveria asserted.

Baveria, who was recently placed under preventive suspension by the bank, had invested $8,000 in SCB's global mutual fund product in January 2000 but the investment had dwindled to $3,800.

In an affidavit provided by Baveria to reporters, recently resigned SCB trust bank group head Antonette de los Reyes claimed that the bank had instructed and mandated her to distribute the foreign mutual fund products.

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3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	650,000	600,000
4. CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	450,000	430,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	230,000	200,000
6. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB		135,000
7. CELEBRITY SPORTS PLAZA	180,000	170,000
8. CLUB FILIPINO	150,000	130,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	400,000	350,000
10. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000	220,000
11. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND)		10,200,000
12. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,400,000	2,200,000
13. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF A/B	500,000/600,000	450,000
14. ORCHARD GOLF CLUB A,B,C	Please call	165,000
15. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000	
16. RIVIERA GOLF CLUB A,B,C	Please call	Please call
17. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,600,000	1,300,000
18. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF	750,000	
19. TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF	720,000	650,000
20. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	120,000
21. VALLEY GOLF CLUB	300,000	280,000
22. WACK WACK GOLF CLUB		6,200,000

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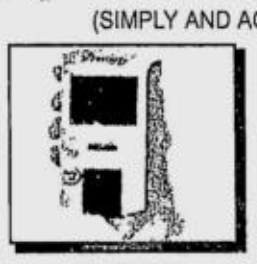
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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
▸ THE STATE OF OUR NATIONAL POWER GRID
Alan Ortiz
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Lilia Bautista
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▸ MIDDLE EAST OPPORTUNITIES AFTER THE IRAQ WAR
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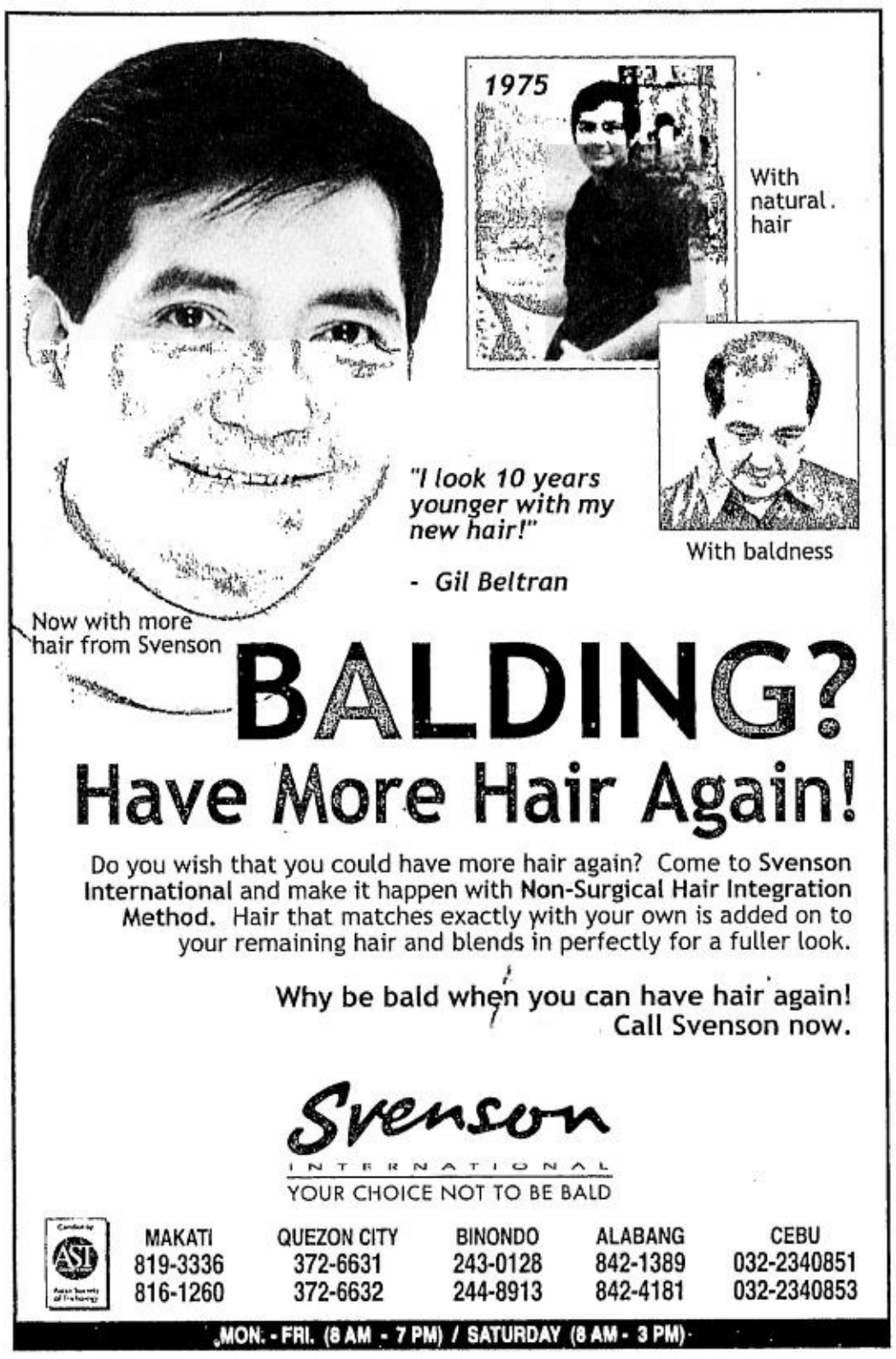
RCBC increases tier-2 offering

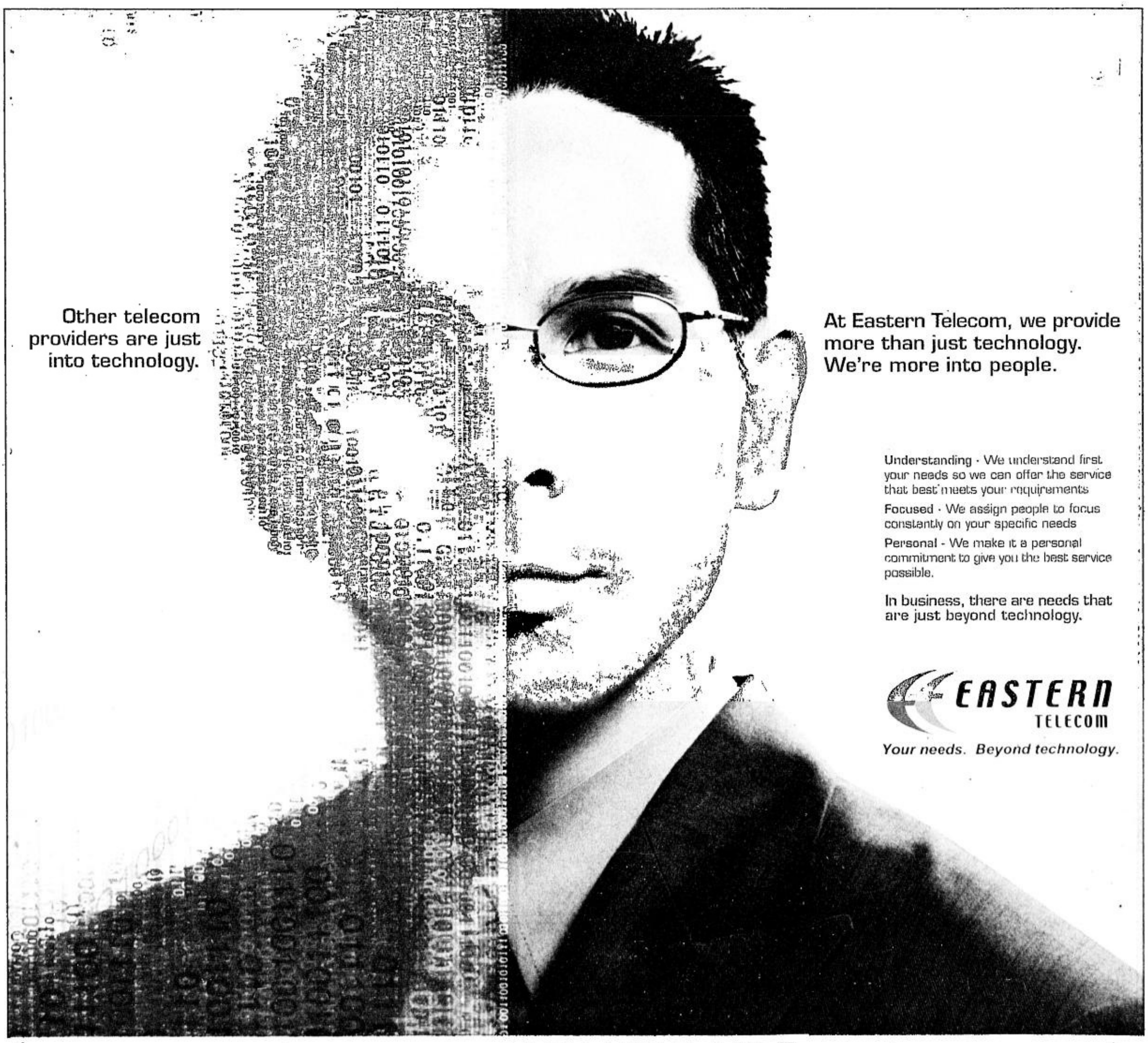
RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. has increased its tier-2 capital notes offering to P5.5 billion from P4.5 billion following strong investor demand.

The capital notes are being offered to individuals and tax exempt entities at a denomination of P500,000.

The capital issue is composed of unsecured subordinated notes due in 2013 but callable after five years.

The notes offering is expected to help RCBC boost its capital adequacy ratio to around 15 percent from its existing 13 percent.





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BCDA seen awarding Boni project to George Yang firm

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BASES Conversion Development Authority will recommend to its board today the acceptance of Alliance Global Group Inc. as the winning bidder for its 25-hectare property in Fort Bonifacio.

BCDA chair Rufo Colayco yesterday told the INQUIRER the bids submitted were competitive but AGI submitted the best offer.

"It's really up to the board. I don't want to preempt them but it looks like it will be an outright decision," he said.

AGI expects to generate P1.8 billion in annual revenue for 15 years from a proposed joint venture with the state-owned BCDA on a 25-hectare property in the former Fort Bonifacio military camp.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, AGI also confirmed that it had submitted the "highest bid" for the property. It said it had offered a P2.74-billion package consisting of an upfront cash payment of P942.24 million and a guaranteed annual revenue stream of P1.8 billion a year over a 15-year period.

COLAYCO

To ensure transparency, the opening of bids was done by the BCDA in front of other bidders last Thursday. As of press time, however, the BCDA was still studying the proposals submitted by four groups—which included Ayala Land Inc. and Robinsons Land Corp.—and has yet to declare AGI as the winning bidder. ALI offered P770 million in outright cash purchase and P1.6 billion in net present value. "They are actually the second highest bidder," Colayco said. The BCDA ranked the bidders in terms of offered net present value.

"Alliance Global will develop the property through a joint venture with BCDA," the company said in a disclosure to the stock exchange.

In a message sent to the INQUIRER, AGI acting chair George Yang, who also holds the Philippine franchise of fast-food chain McDonald's, stressed that the decision to bid for the BCDA property was not his sole initiative.

"It's not a personal decision. It's a bid by a publicly listed company which is owned by other individuals and corporations," Yang said.

The trading of AGI shares was suspended by the PSE after the INQUIRER reported the company had edged out ALI and RLC in the bidding for the BCDA property. The suspension was lifted after AGI confirmed the news in its disclosure.

Sources earlier said that AGI had proposed to invest as much as P5 billion in the 25-ha property, which is bound on the north by the American Battle Monument and on the east by the C-5 highway.

The Gokongweis' Robinsons Land offered P1.4 billion in net present value, which refers to the present value of an investment's future net cash flow minus the initial investment.

ALI also confirmed that it had joined the bidding through its middle-income housing unit Community Innovations Inc. However, it did not disclose its bid price.

Out on a Lim

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

I AM sorry that Mayor Alfredo Lim is not one of the 4 aces. His idea to spray drug traffickers green, so that the vigil aunties could take them out is commendable. But Gloria said, "Never say dye," so Mayor Lim was put in limbo. That makes him, the hero and her, the heroine.

The Japanese have made an offer that the Myanmar government cannot refuse. They give up Suu Kyi, and receive sukiyaki. That will beef up their economy when they meat.

The Church should not be too hard on the Bishop who sired a child. After all, they gave him a bishopric.

Over the weekend, my daughter watched "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." Quasimodo had bad breath and had to gargoyle every day. He was deaf and had no job so the Bishop suggested to the Vicar that he should ring the church bells. The Vicar told Quasimodo and Quasimodo tolled the bell. If you think these puns are bad, my limericks are verse. Anyway, at the end of the film, he plunges to his death and a policeman says, "He's a dead ringer for the guy in the tower." He was posthumously awarded the NO BELL prize for the second chime.

One of my friends suffered a root canal repair for 2-1/2 hours but refused novocaine. He wanted to transcend dental medication. He left at tooth hurty.

Serena Williams pounds her service at over 100 mph. She must be the best player in the world, pound for pound.

There is some terrible news in the Wall Street Journal. Here are some of the headlines: A paper company has folded, a brake company is on the skids, surgeons have just taken a cut, and a cigarette company has gone up in smoke. An ice cream company has had its assets frozen, an adhesive tape company is in a sticky situation, an upholsterer cannot cover its costs, and a tennis ball manufacturer has ended up in court.

* * *

LAST week, I wrote about several different charts but my candlestick chart did not appear. I sent it by fax and e-mail, but the latter never arrived, probably held up at immigration. The candlestick chart is too complex to reproduce from a fax so the art department gave up on it. Apparently, I have to send it by JPEG. It sounds like something you hang your clothes on. I will probably try Fed Ex. In future, I will stick to Point & Figure, KAGI, or line charts.

There was a lot of interest in my articles on charts, and degree of risk, but more important is the choice of indicator. I use a slow stochastic momentum indicator with overbought/oversold levels at 80/20. If you BUY when it is below 20, and rising on increased volume, you will be right at least 80 percent of the time and your potential for a substantial profit is good. Conversely, if you SELL when the indicator is well over 80 and declining, you will probably get out near the top.

Signals in the neutral zone can often lead to only small profits and you can get whipsawed so you MUST use a stop loss. Either you sell the stock at the price you bought it or 3 fluctuations below the highest level it ever reached. This is known as a trailing stop loss. Suppose you BUY FLI at P1 and it rises to P1.12, put a mental stop loss to sell it at P1.06. This insures you against loss and you can always jump back in again.

A popular indicator is relative strength, calculated over 14 days. I find this a bit too slow

OUT/ B5

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Investors thrash RP bonds

INVESTORS thrashed Philippine sovereign dollar bonds yesterday ahead of an expected issue by the government of up to $1 billion worth of 10-year sovereign bonds, despite the cash-strapped National Power Corp. (Napocor) pulling out its debt offering last week.

Spreads on Philippine sovereign bonds due in 2013 widened by 21 basis points (bps) to 456 bps (or 4.5 percentage points) over comparable US treasuries.

"It's not that easy with the current market conditions," said a bond fund manager in Hong Kong. "Napocor failed to sell its bond, which had a sovereign guarantee. I don't see how the Philippine government can do it."

Napocor last week withdrew its $500-million, 10-year offering, dealing a major blow to government efforts to contain its budget deficit.

A source told Reuters in Manila the Philippines was likely to issue a 10-year sovereign bond of up to $1 billion to meet its budgetary needs and those of Napocor.

The offer would be lead managed by Citigroup with Deutsche Bank and JPMorgan as underwriters.

Reuters

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 30, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19.25	19.5	19	19.25	311,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46.5	46.5	46	46	608,100
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32	32	31	31	95,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30	30	30	503,100
Philippine National Bank	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	2,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	800
Security Bank Corp.	12.25	12.25	11.75	11.75	49,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	420,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	2.9	3	2.9	3	25,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1450	1460	1450	1460	2,160
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.75	0.79	0.75	0.79	40,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1065	1070	1065	1070	1,940
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	19	19	18.5	18.5	35,500
Diversified Fin. Network	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	5,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.71	0.71	4,240,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	610	610	605	605	10,530
Ipeople Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.79	200,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.047	0.045	0.045	3,400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	2,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	5,450,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	180,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	560	565	555	565	236,100
Ivantage Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	220,000
Vivant Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	116,550,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	10.25	10.25	9.9	10	496,400
Manila Electric Co. B	15	15	14.5	14.75	1,258,500
Petron Corp.	2	2.02	1.98	1.98	3,113,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	30,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	129,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	200,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2	2	2	40,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	50,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.56	1.56	75,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17	17	254,200
RFM Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.76	0.76	560,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	620,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	54.5	53.5	54.5	172,500
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63.5	63	63	1,243,700
Universal Robina Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	30,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	7	7	7	7	2,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	80,000
Ayala Corp.	4.75	4.75	4.6	4.6	1,689,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	200,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.34	2.34	2.34	2.34	751,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.032	0.032	200,000
A. Soriano Corp	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	50,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	15,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.68	1.6	1.6	174,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.58	0.59	13,420,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	250,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.25	12.5	413,600
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	38,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.72	0.72	1,810,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.38	0.34	0.38	55,510,000
Music Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	1,620,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	50,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Philtread Holdings Corp	2.8	3.05	2.8	3.05	26,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	480,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	56,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.62	1.66	29,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.07	600,000
Pryce Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	700,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	95,100
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.56	0.54	0.55	4,570,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	120,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.41	0.44	0.41	0.44	220,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	530,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	180,000
BONDS, PREFFERED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	19	19	18.25	18.25	76,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.1	6.2	6	6	6,687,000
C & P Homes Inc	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	770,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.185	0.19	0.18	0.19	7,320,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.235	0.235	10,170,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	3,079,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.155	2,970,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	150,000
Primex Corp.	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.3	100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.1	5.9	5.9	3,153,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	83,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
Omico Corp.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	10,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	269,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	29,000,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	5,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	2,062,400	58,849,350.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	239,384,130	367,069,255.00
PRO	34,439,000	67,109,960.00
Mining	98,400,000	504,400.00
OIL	304,000,000	902,200.00
GRAND TOTALS	678,285,530	494,435,165.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	428.56	DOWN 4.53
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,750.82	DOWN 16.60
PRO	535.20	DOWN 10.29
Mining	1,154.91	UP 29.72
OIL	1.25	UP 0.04
All Shares Index	730.29	DOWN 7.43
Composite	1,222.80	DOWN 13.80

NO. OF ADVANCES: 26; NO. OF DECLINES: 44; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 101; NO. OF TRADES: 2,098

DISCLOSURES

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. announced the resignation of Miguel Jose Navarrete as chief financial officer of the company. And elected directors of the company were Tony Tan Caktiong, Ernesto Tanmantiong, William Tan Untiong, Ang Cho Sit, Antonio Chua Poe Eng, Felipe Alfonso and Monico Jacob.

ELECTED directors of Edsa Properties Holdings Inc. were Edward Kuok Khoon Loong, Alfredo Ramos, Tomas Zita Jr., Cynthia del Castillo, Danila Regina Fojas, Maximo Licauco III, Augusto Sunico, Ho Shut Kan, Chew Fook Aun, Vicente Formoso and Federico Noel Jr.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Global Business Holdings Inc. were Washington Sycip, George Ty, Mary Vy Ty, Vicente Carlos, Antonio Abacan Jr., Francisco Sebastian and Arthur Vy Ty.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Republic Cement Corp. were Erdogan Pekenc, Juan Miguel Montinola, Pierre Deleplanque, Aurelio Montinola III, Alfonso Recto Jr., Bryan Cockrell, Renato Sunico, Leonardo Siguion Reyna, Guillaume Roux, Aloysius Colayco and Wigberto Tañada.

* * *

IVANTAGE Corp. announced the resignation of Adolfo Suzara as member of the company's audit committee and the election of Violeta Luym as his replacement.

* * *

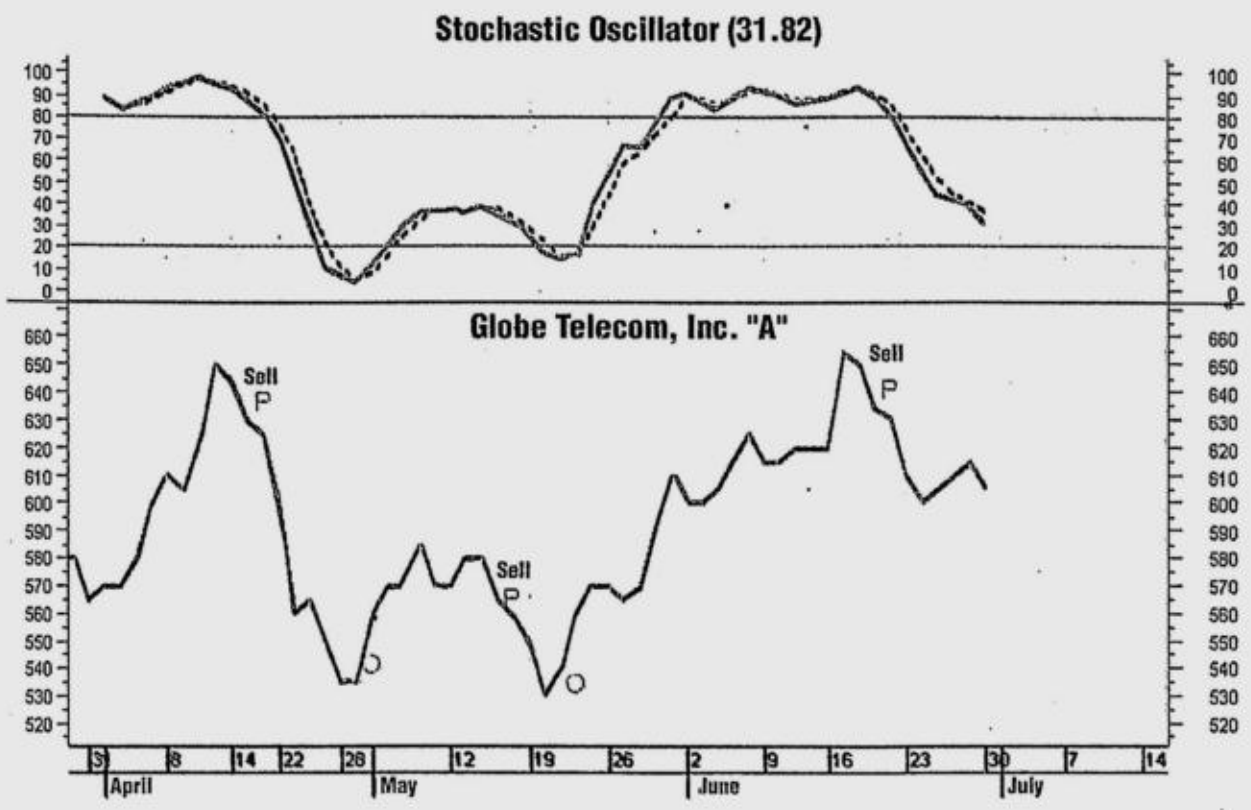
ELECTED directors of A. Brown Co. Inc. were Walter Brown, Victor Juat, Annabelle Brown, Patricia Juat, Guido Alfredo Delgado, Jose Ma. Francisco and Elpidio Paras.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Vitarich Corp. were Rogelio Sarmiento, Lorenzo Sarmiento Jr., Lydia Enrile, Benjamin Sarmiento Jr., Socorro Gatmaitan, Ma. Luz Roxas-Lopez, Ma. Victoria Sarmiento, Jose Sarmiento, Aristotle Villaraza, Deogracias Vistan and Manuel Lim.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Alcorn Gold Resources Corp. were Lucio Co, Robert Cokeng, Leonardo Dayao, Eduardo Hernandez, Ponciano Mathay, Estelito Mendoza and Reynaldo Salom. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*



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Mr. Bearbull...

From page B4

although it undoubtedly works. BUY when it falls below 30 and then turns up; SELL when it is above 70 and turns down. I get better results using 75/25 or 80/20 with a default period of 10 days.

Another popular indicator is MACD, moving average convergence/divergence, but the usual parameter of 26-12-9 is rather slow and gets you in and out rather late. You will get better results by using 17-8-9 if it is available. The latter is faster, but the quicker the indicator, the more errors it will make. There is invariably a trade-off between speed and accuracy.

A simple oscillator can also be used, such as 30/10. This means when the 10-day moving average crosses the 30-day moving average, you BUY or SELL, depending on which direction the 10-day is moving. For a faster indicator, you can use 20/5 and this usually gives fair results. I have no use for the 200/50 beloved by American technical analysts, as it is far too slow. Perhaps, it works for the volatile Nasdaq but it would be totally useless in our market.

Yet another indicator I use is the CCI, commodity channel index. Few people use it because the mathematical formula is complicated. A detailed study, carried out in the US on a large number of stocks over a long period of time, showed that if you BUY or SELL when the indicator crosses zero, you will lose more money than you will make. Buying when it crosses -100, and selling when it crosses +100, gives better results.

You cannot use indicators efficiently with KAGI or Point & Figure because these charts have no time element and indicators do. KAGI needs no indicator as it changes color when you should BUY or SELL. Point & Figure charts gives more information but are a little more difficult to construct and you have to learn how to interpret the patterns. For readers who do not have computer software, I will give you next week, an Internet web site that is very well written and even asks you to take an exam to see if you have understood it. So you will not be left out.

The chart of GLOBE gave excellent signals and the degree of risk has dropped from 94 to 32. It should approach 20 by next week. Subscribers can now get Point and Figure charts on active stocks, free of charge, but only by fax, and you must keep them updated yourself. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

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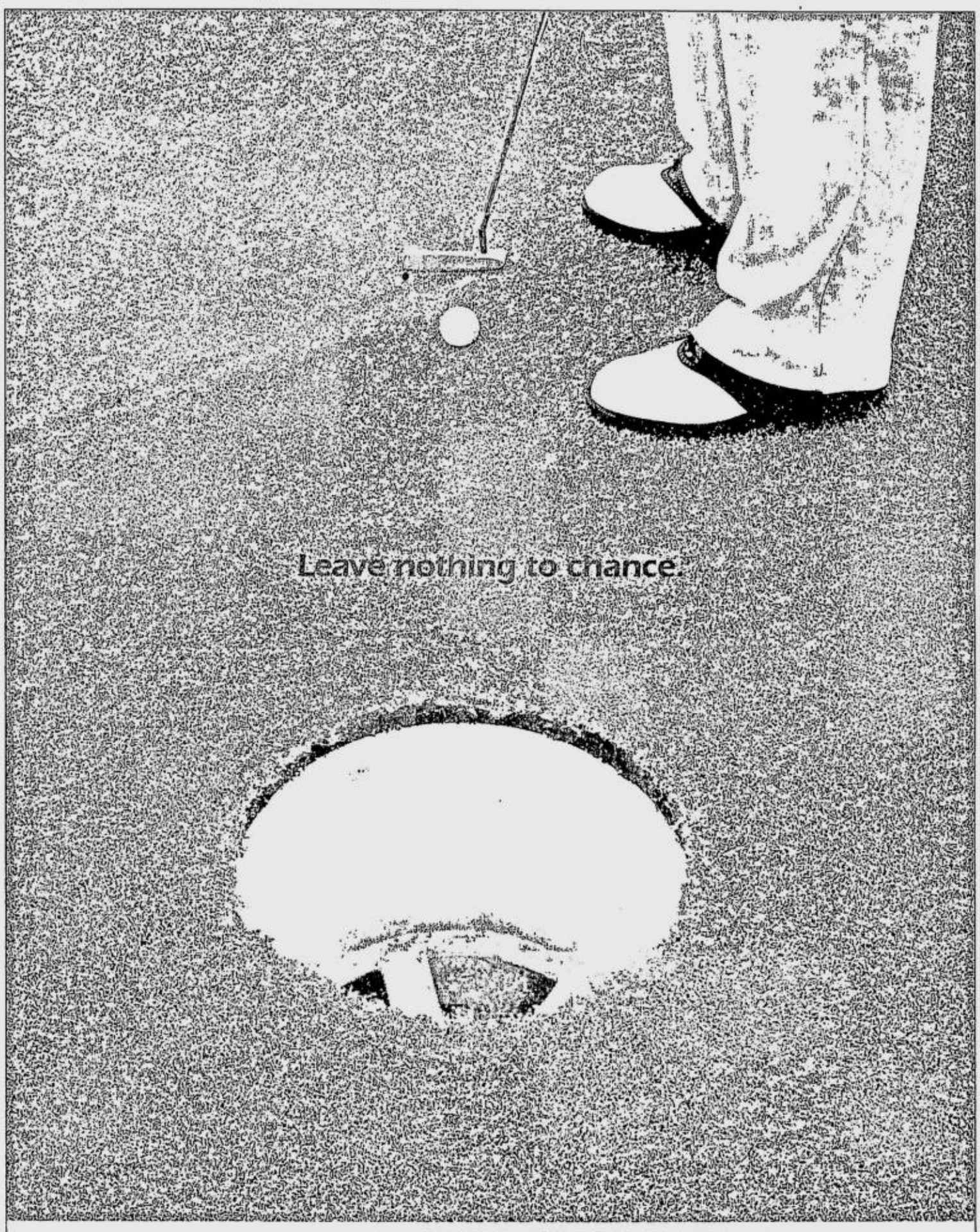

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STRIKING South Korean railway workers shout slogans during a rally in Taejon, about 164 km south of Seoul. REUTERS

South Korea gets tough on strike; punishment eyed

KOREA—South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun ruled out fresh negotiations on Monday with striking workers over plans to privatize the national railway system as the latest labor upheaval threatens an already ailing economy.

The 22,000-strong railway workers union rejected a government order to end what officials deem to be an illegal walk-out, but urged the government to open fresh negotiations.

The Korean National Railway Administration, a government agency, vowed that workers found violating labor regulations would be punished and some could be fired over the three-day-old strike that has partially crippled the railway system.

"There's no choice but to solve the railway workers' strike according to law and principles," Roh was quoted by his chief spokesperson as telling a meeting of his senior officials.

A senior aide to Roh, who declined to be named, also told reporters there would be no negotiations with striking workers.

The union fears the reform measures, which parliament is expected to finalize as early as Monday, could lead to more layoffs as the loss-making railway system tries to cut costs.

"We don't have any plan to change our decision and will continue the strike," Kim Young-hoon, chief spokesperson for the Korean Railway Workers' Union told Reuters. "We want talks but the government has kept ignoring our demand for dialogue." The government had set a 10 p.m. deadline on Sunday to end the strike.

The strike began on Saturday but the real impact came on Monday, with local media reporting that commuters had to wait up to four times longer that usual for a train.

In separate moves ahead of major wage negotiating sessions with employers, the country's top two labor umbrella groups, with a combined membership of more than 1.5 million, began separate rallies in the capital Seoul.

At the weekend, riot police stormed a protest by striking railway workers and detained more than 1,000, marking the first sign of a tougher stance from authorities over the recent unrest.

The government of Roh, a former labor lawyer, has been criticized for talking tough but taking a soft line on unions during negotiations in a series of strikes this year.

"I and my government will coordinate and mediate it in a neutral position without leaning to any side," Roh told a seminar hosted by the finance ministry. "I will never tolerate illegal action and will handle it according to law and principles." Signs of a growing confrontation between government and labor hit financial markets, although analysts said a tougher government stance would be a positive factor longer term. *Reuters*

Lack of legitimate gov't bogs down Iraqi reforms

BASEL, Switzerland—The head of a fund set up to help finance economic reform in Arab states said on Sunday the lack of a legitimate government in Iraq was the biggest obstacle to its reconstruction.

Jassim Al-Mannai, director general and chair of the board of the Arab Monetary Fund, said his organization could help in rebuilding Iraq but that the biggest stumbling block was the lack of a clear authority in the country.

"At least you need to see an authority to whom you can talk, and it is still in the process. So everybody is waiting, not only the Arab Monetary Fund," he told reporters on the sidelines of a gathering of central bankers ahead of Monday's annual meeting of the Bank for International Settlements.

"I hope this thing will be clarified relatively soon, so we can be of assistance as soon as possible," he added.

The Arab fund, representing 22 Arab states including Iraq, finances economic reform programmes and trade between member states and helps them develop capital markets.

Oil repair bill goes up

Meanwhile looters and saboteurs running riot in Iraq have trebled the country's oil sector repair bill, slowing efforts to restart exports needed to fund Baghdad's postwar reconstruction.

Gary Loew, director of planning for the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Restore Iraq Oil, said rampant pillaging of Iraq's oil network now accounts for more than $800 million of infrastructure repair costs already in excess of $1 billion.

"We're estimating that about three quarters of the damages are due to looting," he said. "So that set us back. But we still have a schedule to get export sales and refining capacity up, and we're not that far off—maybe three weeks to a month." Iraqi oil fields are now pumping about 800,000 barrels per day (bpd) versus an initial target to reach 1.5 million bpd by the end of June. But Loew hopes Iraqi and US technicians can turn up the taps to hit a mid-July export target of one million bpd.

"If we just had a stable work environment everybody could work quicker," he told Reuters in an interview conducted on Sunday. "We're still in the situation where we have to send armed escorts out with the work crews." Iraq's oil fields—which cranked out three million bpd before the war—sustained only minor damage amounting to about $250-$350 million before lawlessness set in, Loew said.

But costs racked up as bandits hauled away tons of tools, desks, light sockets and industrial gear.

Organized criminal activity

"There's been this continuing wave of organized criminal activity where they've been going in and taking out compressors, pumps, control units—big pieces of equipment—things that you'd need trucks and cranes to move," he said.

The country's vast southern oil fields, which pumped about two thirds of Iraq's oil before the war, have suffered the most.

Output from the giant southern Rumaila oil field is fluctuating between 200,000 to 400,000 bpd, while output from northern Kirkuk oil field is fairly stable at about 500,000 bpd.

Loew said Iraqi and US engineers would hold a major planning session July 6-10 to chart a production, export and rehabilitation strategy to take them through February 2004.

"We'll use that to schedule our work and expenditures so we're doing the most important stuff with the biggest payoff first," he said.

"We're ready to start spending money and executing a lot of construction. If we can just control the looting and sabotage in the future, we should be able to make really good progress."

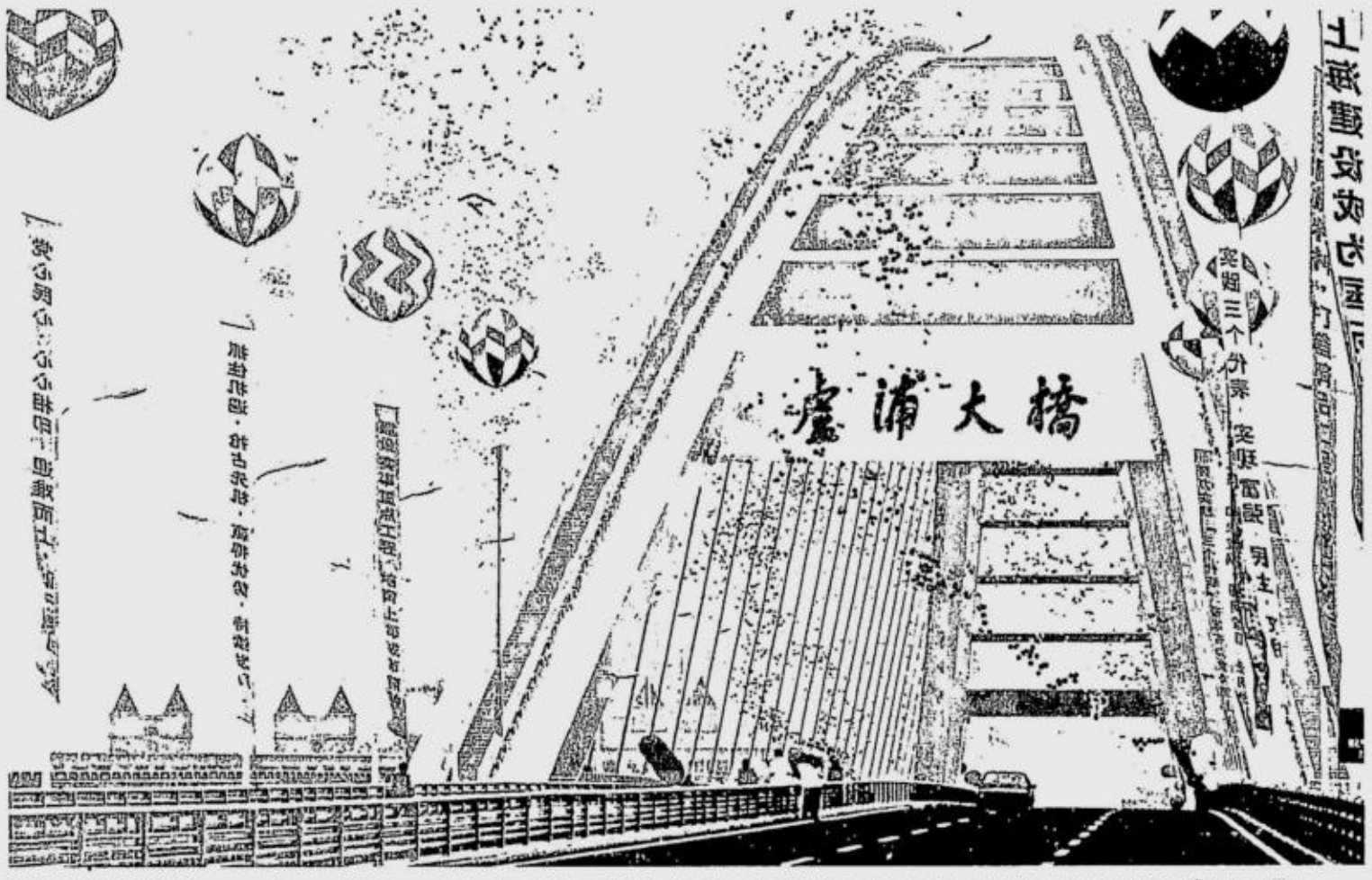
The US Congress has authorized close to $500 million for repairs but USACE has just given Washington a damage estimate of more than $1 billion.

"We had to go back and inform everybody what the price tag is," said Loew. "The policymakers in Washington are determining what sources of funds will be used for the rest of the work." Loew stressed the damage estimate is subject to much uncertainty.

"We know approximately what it is going to be and we'll work to make it less," he said, adding the $1 billion figure is over and above $280 million obligated to its contract with Halliburton unit Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR) to run oil facilities.

The USACE is re-tendering the KBR deal, which was awarded in mid-March in a no-competition bidding process. It will stand until replaced by a competitive bid for a new contract.

"The KBR contract is being re-tendered as we speak," said Loew. "Basically what is available to contractors will be whatever is not done at the point that contract is awarded," he said, adding the contract award is expected in mid-October. *Reuters*



THE BALLOONS rise over the world's longest steel arch Lupu Bridge in Shanghai during the open-to-traffic ceremony. The $266-million investment of the world's longest steel arch bridge measuring 750-meters long and 28.75-meters wide, links the city's eastern Pudong business district and its downtown Puxi area. AFP

Singapore Airlines, pilots agree on cuts

SINGAPORE—Singapore Airlines pilots have agreed to take a pay cut of up to 16.5 percent and 24 days a year of mandatory unpaid leave as the airline tries to recover losses caused by the Iraq war and the SARS outbreak, Singapore's Manpower Ministry announced Monday.

[illegible] agreement between management and the Air Line Pilots' Association-Singapore was announced at an Industrial Arbitration Court hearing, whose decision would be final and legally binding.

The wage cuts—effective from July 1 until March 31, 2004—will be 16.5 percent for captains and 11 percent for first officers.

The city-state's national carrier [illegible] initially wanted captains to take pay cuts of up to 22.5 percent—a move fiercely resisted by the union, which represents 1,600 of the airline's 1,800 pilots.

As part of the settlement, pilots would have 25 percent of their wage cut restored if the airline makes a net profit of at least S$200 million (US$112 million) when its yearly earnings report is issued in March 2004.

Singapore Airlines earlier laid off 414 workers and scrapped 206 trainee jobs, saying the measures were necessary in order for the company to survive.

The airline said it had been losing around 6 million Singapore dollars ($3.35 million) a day, triggered by the war in Iraq and the severe acute respiratory syndrome outbreak.

PRESIDENT of the Bank of England Sir Edward George attending the International Monetary Conference in Berlin. The banker will clear his desk at the Bank of England this week after a 10-year stint at the helm of the British economy that has made him the darling of the city financial district. AFP

Britons think directors of top firms unworthy, overpaid

LONDON—The vast majority of Britons believe directors of top companies are untrustworthy and overpaid, a newspaper opinion poll showed on Monday.

Four out of five Britons believe directors of large firms cannot be trusted to tell the truth, while 78 percent agreed that such directors are paid too much, according to the Mori poll commissioned by the Financial Times newspaper.

Shareholders threw out a resolution last month on executive pay at GlaxoSmithKline Plc in the biggest snub to any board in this year's stormy season of annual general meetings.

The rebuff to Europe's largest drug maker highlighted the growing concern among British investors about generous US-style pay packages for top corporate executives.

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"The transaction represents a further step in SABMiller's strategy in China of focusing on local brands to build regional leadership and strengthens our position in the world's largest beer market," SABMiller chief executive Graham Mackay said in a press statement.

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Britain's Hilton has a global marketing alliance with the US-based Hilton Hotels Corp., agreed in January 1997, to market the Hilton brand around the world. *Reuters*

Lack of legitimate gov't bogs down Iraqi reforms

BASEL, Switzerland—The head of a fund set up to help finance economic reform in Arab states said on Sunday the lack of a legitimate government in Iraq was the biggest obstacle to its reconstruction.

Jassim Al-Mannai, director general and chair of the board of the Arab Monetary Fund, said his organization could help in rebuilding Iraq but that the biggest stumbling block was the lack of a clear authority in the country.

"At least you need to see an authority to whom you can talk, and it is still in the process. So everybody is waiting, not only the Arab Monetary Fund," he told reporters on the sidelines of a gathering of central bankers ahead of Monday's annual meeting of the Bank for International Settlements.

"I hope this thing will be clarified relatively soon, so we can be of assistance as soon as possible," he added.

The Arab fund, representing 22 Arab states including Iraq, finances economic reform programmes and trade between member states and helps them develop capital markets.

Oil repair bill goes up

Meanwhile looters and saboteurs running riot in Iraq have trebled the country's oil sector repair bill, slowing efforts to restart exports needed to fund Baghdad's postwar reconstruction.

Gary Loew, director of planning for the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Restore Iraq Oil, said rampant pillaging of Iraq's oil network now accounts for more than $800 million of infrastructure repair costs already in excess of $1 billion.

"We're estimating that about three quarters of the damages are due to looting," he said. "So that set us back. But we still have a schedule to get export sales and refining capacity up, and we're not that far off—maybe three weeks to a month." Iraqi oil fields are now pumping about 800,000 barrels per day (bpd) versus an initial target to reach 1.5 million bpd by the end of June. But Loew hopes Iraqi and US technicians can turn up the taps to hit a mid-July export target of one million bpd.

"If we just had a stable work environment everybody could work quicker," he told Reuters in an interview conducted on Sunday. "We're still in the situation where we have to send armed escorts out with the work crews." Iraq's oil fields—which cranked out three million bpd before the war—sustained only minor damage amounting to about $250-$350 million before lawlessness set in, Loew said.

But costs racked up as bandits hauled away tons of tools, desks, light sockets and industrial gear.

Organized criminal activity

"There's been this continuing wave of organized criminal activity where they've been going in and taking out compressors, pumps, control units—big pieces of equipment—things that you'd need trucks and cranes to move," he said.

The country's vast southern oil fields, which pumped about two thirds of Iraq's oil before the war, have suffered the most.

Output from the giant southern Rumaila oil field is fluctuating between 200,000 to 400,000 bpd, while output from northern Kirkuk oil field is fairly stable at about 500,000 bpd.

Loew said Iraqi and US engineers would hold a major planning session July 6-10 to chart a production, export and rehabilitation strategy to take them through February 2004.

"We'll use that to schedule our work and expenditures so we're doing the most important stuff with the biggest payoff first," he said.

"We're ready to start spending money and executing a lot of construction. If we can just control the looting and sabotage in the future, we should be able to make really good progress."

The US Congress has authorized close to $500 million for repairs but USACE has just given Washington a damage estimate of more than $1 billion.

"We had to go back and inform everybody what the price tag is," said Loew. "The policymakers in Washington are determining what sources of funds will be used for the rest of the work." Loew stressed the damage estimate is subject to much uncertainty.

"We know approximately what it is going to be and we'll work to make it less," he said, adding the $1 billion figure is over and above $280 million obligated to its contract with Halliburton unit Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR) to run oil facilities.

The USACE is re-tendering the KBR deal, which was awarded in mid-March in a no-competition bidding process. It will stand until replaced by a competitive bid for a new contract.

"The KBR contract is being re-tendered as we speak," said Loew. "Basically what is available to contractors will be whatever is not done at the point that contract is awarded," he said, adding the contract award is expected in mid-October. *Reuters*

STRIKING South Korean railway workers shout slogans during a rally in Taejon, about 164 km south of Seoul. REUTERS

South Korea gets tough on strike; punishment eyed

KOREA—South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun ruled out fresh negotiations on Monday with striking workers over plans to privatize the national railway system as the latest labor upheaval threatens an already ailing economy.

The 22,000-strong railway workers union rejected a government order to end what officials deem to be an illegal walk-out, but urged the government to open fresh negotiations.

The Korean National Railway Administration, a government agency, vowed that workers found violating labor regulations would be punished and some could be fired over the three-day-old strike that has partially crippled the railway system.

"There's no choice but to solve the railway workers' strike according to law and principles," Roh was quoted by his chief spokesperson as telling a meeting of his senior officials.

A senior aide to Roh, who declined to be named, also told reporters there would be no negotiations with striking workers.

The union fears the reform measures, which parliament is expected to finalize as early as Monday, could lead to more layoffs as the loss-making railway system tries to cut costs.

"We don't have any plan to change our decision and will continue the strike," Kim Young-hoon, chief spokesperson for the Korean Railway Workers' Union told Reuters. "We want talks but the government has kept ignoring our demand for dialogue." The government had set a 10 p.m. deadline on Sunday to end the strike.

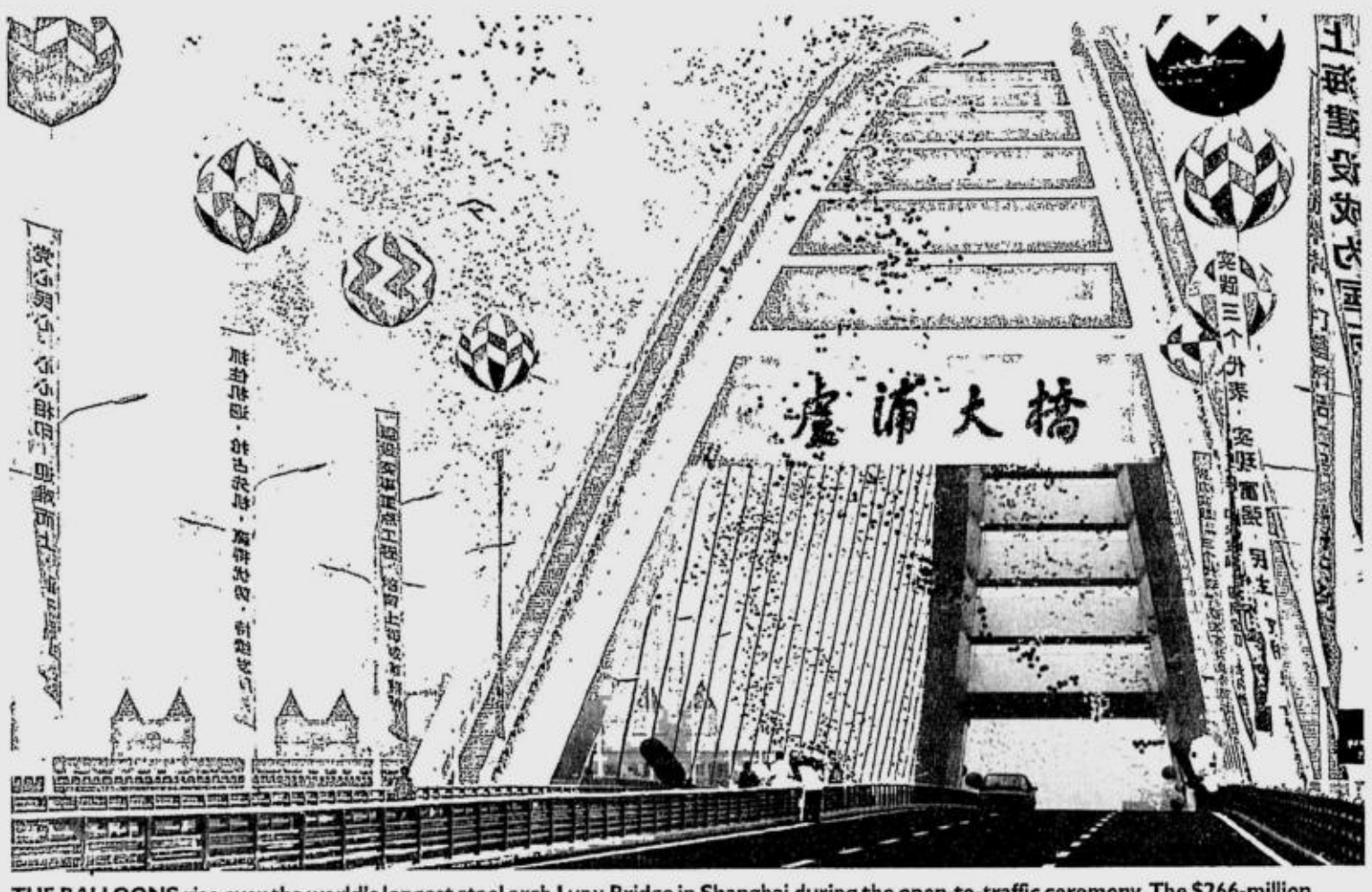
The strike began on Saturday but the real impact came on Monday, with local media reporting that commuters had to wait up to four times longer that usual for a train.

In separate moves ahead of major wage negotiating sessions with employers, the country's top two labor umbrella groups, with a combined membership of more than 1.5 million, began separate rallies in the capital Seoul.

At the weekend, riot police stormed a protest by striking railway workers and detained more than 1,000, marking the first sign of a tougher stance from authorities over the recent unrest.

The government of Roh, a former labor lawyer, has been criticized for talking tough but taking a soft line on unions during negotiations in a series of strikes this year.

"I and my government will coordinate and mediate it in a neutral position without leaning to any side," Roh told a seminar hosted by the finance ministry. "I will never tolerate illegal action and will handle it according to law and principles." Signs of a growing confrontation between government and labor hit financial markets, although analysts said a tougher government stance would be a positive factor longer term. *Reuters*



THE BALLOONS rise over the world's longest steel arch Lupu Bridge in Shanghai during the open-to-traffic ceremony. The $266-million investment of the world's longest steel arch bridge measuring 750-meters long and 28.75-meters wide, links the city's eastern Pudong business district and its downtown Puxi area. AFP

Singapore Airlines, pilots agree on cuts

SINGAPORE—Singapore Airlines pilots have agreed to take a pay cut of up to 16.5 percent and 24 days a year of mandatory unpaid leave as the airline tries to recover losses caused by the Iraq war and the SARS outbreak, Singapore's Manpower Ministry announced Monday.

agreement between management and the Air Line Pilots' Association-Singapore was announced at an Industrial Arbitration Court hearing, whose decision would be final and legally binding.

The wage cuts—effective from July 1 until March 31, 2004—will be 16.5 percent for captains and 11 percent for first officers.

The city-state's national carrier had initially wanted captains to take pay cuts of up to 22.5 percent—a move fiercely resisted by the union, which represents 1,600 of the airline's 1,800 pilots.

As part of the settlement, pilots would have 25 percent of their wage cut restored if the airline makes a net profit of at least S$200 million (US$112 million) when its yearly earnings report is issued in March 2004.

Singapore Airlines' earlier laid off 414 workers and scrapped 206 trainee jobs, saying the measures were necessary in order for the company to survive.

The airline said it had been losing around 6 million Singapore dollars ($3.35 million) a day, triggered by the war in Iraq and the severe acute respiratory syndrome outbreak.

PRESIDENT of the Bank of England Sir Edward George attending the International Monetary Conference in Berlin. The banker will clear his desk at the Bank of England this week after a 10-year stint at the helm of the British economy that has made him the darling of the city financial district. AFP

Britons think directors of top firms unworthy, overpaid

LONDON—The vast majority of Britons believe directors of top companies are untrustworthy and overpaid, a newspaper opinion poll showed on Monday.

Four out of five Britons believe directors of large firms cannot be trusted to tell the truth, while 78 percent agreed that such directors are paid too much, according to the Mori poll commissioned by the Financial Times newspaper.

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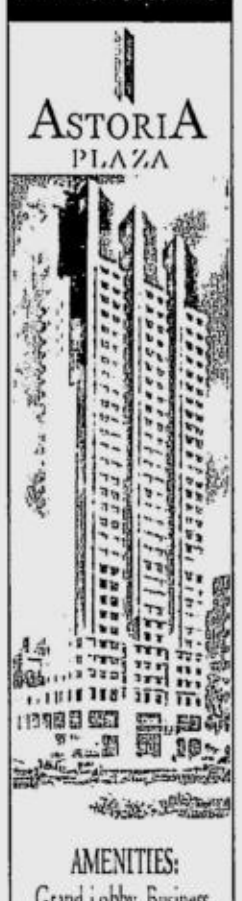

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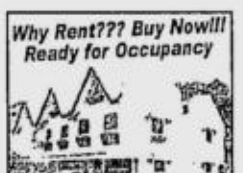

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Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL
SPECIAL DRUGS AND COMMERCIAL COURT
10th Judicial Region
BRANCH 40
Cagayan de Oro City

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR THE DECLARATION OF STATE OF SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS, WITH AN APPROVAL OF PROPOSED REHABILITATION PLAN,
RC NARC CORPORATION,
Petitioner
x- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

SPEC. PROC. NO. 2003-057

STAY ORDER

Before this court is a Petition for Declaration of Suspension of Payments with approval of Rehabilitation Plan filed by petitioner RC NARC Corporation, with principal offices at 168 Clementino Chavez St., Cagayan de Oro City.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the court hereby issues this Stay Order pursuant to Section 6, Rule 4, Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation requiring compliance with the following terms and conditions, to wit:

a) ATTY. GIL U. BANAAG, is hereby appointed as REHABILITATION RECEIVER of the petitioner and his bond is fixed at ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (P100,000.00);
b) Staying enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by the court action or otherwise, against the debtor, its guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with the debtor;
c) Prohibiting the debtor from selling, encumbering, transferring or disposing in any manner any of its properties except in the ordinary course of business;
d) Prohibiting the debtor from making any payment of its liabilities outstanding as of the date of filing of the petition;
e) Prohibiting the debtor's suppliers of goods or services from withholding supply of goods and services in the ordinary course of business for as long as the debtor makes payments for the services and goods supplied after the issuance of this stay order;
f) Directing the payment in full of all administrative expenses incurred after the issuance of this stay order;
g) Directing all creditors and all interested parties (including the Securities and Exchange Commission) to file and serve on the debtor a verified comment on or opposition to the petition, (10) days before the date of the initial hearing and putting them on notice that their failure to do so will bar them from participating in the proceedings; and
h) Directing the creditors and interested parties to secure from the court copies of the petition and its annexes within such time as to enable themselves to file their comment on or opposition to the petition and to prepare for the initial hearing of the petition.

Pursuant to Section 7, Rule 4 of the aforesaid Interim Rules, the petitioner is hereby directed to immediately serve a copy of this Stay Order on the Rehabilitation Receiver appointed by this court, who shall manifest his acceptance or non-acceptance of his appointment not later than ten (10) days from receipt of this Order and put up his bond within the same period, as well as take his Oath of Office before this Court during the initial hearing of this petition.

The petitioner is likewise directed to publish this Stay Order in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks before the scheduled initial hearing.

The initial hearing on the petition is hereby fixed on July 4, 2003 at 2:30 o' clock in the afternoon.

SO ORDERED

Cagayan de Oro City, May 14, 2003

(Sgd.) HON. EPIFANIO T. NACAYA, CESO V
Presiding Judge

(PDI – June 24 & July 1, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
10th Judicial Region
BRANCH 24
Cagayan de Oro City

GONZALO GO,
Plaintiff,
-versus-
ENG'R. ELIEZER B. VILLAROSA,
Defendant
x- /

CIVIL CASE NO. 2003-083
FOR:
SUM OF MONEY AND DAMAGES

SUMMONS WITH THE COPY OF THE COMPLAINT

TO: ENG'R ELIEZER B. VILLAROSA
Balulang, Cagayan de Oro City or
Davao City and Boracay Island

GREETINGS:

You are hereby summoned and required to file and serve your answer to the complaint, copy of which herewith served upon/publish upon you, within fifteen days after service hereof exclusive of the day of publish. If you fail to do so. Judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

WITNESS, the Honorable LEONARDO N. DEMECILLO, Judge, of this Court, this 18th day of June 2003, at Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines

ATTY. CAROLYN C. DAMASING
Clerk of Court V

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW plaintiff, by counsel and unto this Honorable Court most respectfully aver:

1. That plaintiff is a sole proprietor of MINDANAO LUMBER & HARDWARE with business address at Corrales Extension, Puntod, Cagayan de Oro City, where they may be served respectively with summons and other processes of this Honorable Court;

2. That sometime in November 1996, a defendant obtained from plaintiff by purchase various construction materials on which plaintiff delivered the same in consideration of defendants payment of a check dated December 30, 1996, in the amount of P814,263.11, drawn against United Coconut Planters Bank with Check No. CDO-0801898;

3. That when the said check was presented by the plaintiff to drawee bank for payment within ninety days from its due date, the same was dishonored for reason of "Drawn Against Insufficient Funds (DAIF)" Defendant knew at the time he issued the said check to plaintiff that he had no sufficient deposit in his bank to cover the amount he paid to plaintiff but he did not inform the plaintiff, thus constituting fraud and deceit through his false pretenses and fraudulent acts. A. copy of said check and Notice of Dishonor are hereto attached as Annexes "A" and "B";

4. That several written and verbal demands were served by plaintiff upon defendant but the latter remained adamant and unjust in paying his just and valid obligations. A copy of last demand letter sent to defendant is hereto attached as Annex "C" In fact, as the result thereof, plaintiff filed a criminal case BP No. 2 and Estafa against herein defendant and is now pending before the Regional Trial Court, Branch 24 of Cagayan de Oro City;

5. That due to the unjust and unlawful refusal of defendant to pay his valid and just debts, plaintiff suffered sleepless nights, mental anguish and moral shock for which reason defendant must be ordered to indemnify plaintiff by way of moral damages in the amount of one hundred thousand Pesos (P100,000.00);

6. That, in order to protect the rights of plaintiff against unjust, immoral and equitable acts of defendant, plaintiff was constrained to seek legal assistance to vindicate his right for which reason he hired the services of counsel and spent the sum of one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00), which amount defendant must be ordered to repay plaintiff in addition to costs of suit.

WHEREFORE premises considered, it is most respectfully prayed of this Honorable Court that judgment issue ordering defendant to pay plaintiff the following sums:

a. P814,263.11 ACTUAL DAMAGES
b. P100,000.00 MORAL DAMAGES
c. P100,000.00 ATTORNEY'S FEE
d. COSTS OF THE SUIT

OTHER RELIEFS just and equitable are likewise prayed for.
Cagayan de Oro City, March 11, 2003

ALEJANDRO JOSE C. PALLUGNA
Counsel for Plaintiff
PALLUGNA BOYCILLO & ELIZAGA LAW
Office 9th-29th Sts. Nazareth, Cagayan de Oro City

VERIFICATION & CERTIFICATION
OF NON-FORUM SHOPPING

I, GONZALO GO, of legal age, with address at Mindanao Lumber & Hardware Corrales Extension, Puntod, Cagayan de Oro City, after having been sworn to in accordance with law do hereby depose and say:

That I am the complainant in the above-entitled complaint;

That I have caused the preparation and the filing of the foregoing complaint and that I have personal knowledge as to the truth of the foregoing allegations.

That I have not commenced nor filed any action involving the same parties, the same causes of action and the same issues before the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, or any other tribunal, court or agency, I undertake to inform this Court of such fact within five (5) days from such notice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto affix my signature this 12th day of March 2003, at Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines

GONZALO GO
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 12th day of March 2003, at Cagayan de Oro City Philippines, by Gonzalo Go

ALEJANDRO JOSE C. PALLUGNA
Notary Public

(PDI – July 1, 2003)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

JOB FAIR 09168259974 ANA

AUCTION SALE

JAC FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP INC. 100 C. Palanca St. Quiapo, Manila will sell all unredeemed pledges for the months of DEC. 2002 & JAN. 2003 on JULY 15, 2003 at 8:30am.
- J. Lanuza Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given of the loss of Sta Elena Golf Club Inc Share#M018B & Canlubang Golf & Country Club Inc Share#1762 in the name of EDMUNDO T. ONGSIAKO. If no one contest one year from date of publication a new cert will be issued.
(PDI- June 24, July 1 & 8 2003)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen. Person must pray this 3 consecutive days without stating one's wish.

After 3rd day Your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be.

Please publish this after praying

—RRA

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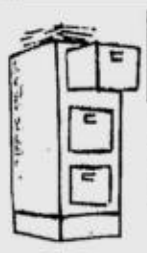

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dti
Department of Trade and Industry
Board of Investments

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **AGRICROPS INDUSTRIES, INC**. with office address at **40 San Miguel Avenue, Mandaluyong City**, for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **New Agricultural Producer of Cassava Starch Milk and Cassava Compost** at the following capacities:

Cassava Starch Milk – 42.875 MTPY
Cassava Compost – 313,000 L-Kg. Bag per year

with project site at **Km. 13.5 Barangay Taloc, Bago City, Negros Occidental** has been officially accepted on **June 20, 2003** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 20th day of June 2003.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director, Project Evaluation
and Registration Department

(PDI – July 1, 2003)

BCDA

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS
ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM – PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in Phase 2 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP Phase 2). ADP Phase 2 involves the development and privatization of Bonifacio South Lots 4 and 5 of Block 55 at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila covering an approximate total area of 3,266 square meters.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ADP Phase 2 that outlines, among others, the requirements that will enable proponents to participate in the privatization.

The TOR for the Bonifacio South Lots 4 and 5 in Block 55 is available at the BCDA offices. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is PhP5,000.00 payable to BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set for 2:00 p.m., 23 July 2003. The objective of the conference is to discuss the property, the TOR and other clarifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to the BCDA.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP COMMITTEE-2
BCDA Corporate Center
Gozar corner Lucas Streets
Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

or they can contact Ms. Aileen R. Zosa or Ms. Bamble L. Andal at telephone numbers 510-0420 or 510-0411 or at arzosa@bcda.gov.ph or bandal@bcda.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) Chairman
ADP Committee-2

(PDI–July 1, 8 & 15, 2003)

Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED BAUAN RURAL BANK (BATANGAS), INC.

1. Starting July 1, 2003, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed Bauan Rural Bank (Batangas), Inc.
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank from July 1 to July 24, 2003, Mondays thru Fridays, during office hours, where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by mail addressed to –

The Manager
Claims Processing Department
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposits, Bank Statement and Unused checks; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591, as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Bauan Rural Bank (Batangas), Inc. is on **November 2, 2004**. After **November 2, 2004**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI–June 30 & July 1, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
For Locally Funded Projects

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), through its Bid and Award Committee (BAC) for Locally Funded Project, invites contractor registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the following projects:

	Name of Projects/Location	YEAR	ABC
	Package 1 – Airports		
1	Loakan Airport, Baguio City - Improvement of Access Road (Concreting)	2003 GAA	1,840,000.00
2	Bagabag Airport, Nueva Vizcaya - Concrete Paving of Runway	2003 GAA	1,683,862.22
3	Bagabag Airport, Nueva Vizcaya - Improvement of Terminal Building	2003 GAA	349,078.58
4	Cauayan Airport, Nueva Vizcaya - Repair/Rehab of Fire Station Bldg	2003 GAA	371,283.28
5	Puerto Princesa Airport, Palawan - Construction of Perimeter Fence	2003 GAA	920,000.00
6	Calapan Airport, Oriental Mindoro - Construction of Perimeter Fence	2003 GAA	920,000.00
7	Virac Airport, Catanduanes - Obstruction Removal	2003 GAA	920,000.00
8	San Antonio Airport, Northern Samar - Construction of Runway/Airstrip	2002 & 2003 GAA	4,450,000.00
9	Ormoc Airport, Leyte - Construction of Perimeter Fence	2003 GAA	1,640,000.00
10	Ormoc Airport, Leyte - Asphalt Overlay of Runway	1998 CI	5,002,916.71
11	Iloilo Airport, Manduarriao, Iloilo City - Asphalt Overlay of Runway	2002 CI 2003 GAA	7,230,735.08
12	Kalibo Airport, Aklan - Expansion of VPA and Drainage System	2003 GAA	920,000.00
13	Roxas Airport, Roxas City - Shoulder Grade Correction & Perimeter Fence	2003 GAA	1,540,000.00
14	Caticlan Airport, Aklan - Const of Access Road and Drainage System	2002 & 2003 GAA	1,564,000.00
15	Dumaguete Airport, Dumaguete City - Construction of Perimeter Fence	2003 GAA	920,000.00
16	Zamboanga Airport, Zamboanga City - Resurfacing of Runway	2003 GAA	1,840,000.00
17	Cag. de Oro Airport, Lumbia, Cag. De Oro City - Expansion of Fire Station Building	2003 GAA	616,000.00
18	Camiguin Airport, Mambajao, Camiguin - Const of Security Fence and Site Devt.	2002 & 2003 GAA	1,884,881.04
19	Iligan Airport, Balo-i, Lanao del Norte - Widening of Runway	2003 GAA	920,000.00
20	Bislig Airport, Bislig Surigao del Sur - Construction of Elevated Water Tank	2001 GAA	587,934.89
21	Surigao Airport, Surigao City - Construction of Elevated Water Tank	2003 GAA	460,000.00
22	Jolo Airport, Sulu - Obstruction Removal	2002 & 2003 GAA	5,059,891.31
			41,540,583.11
	Package 2 – Municipal Ports		
1	Busuanga Port, Coron, Palaitan, Palawan - Construction/Repair of Port	2002 CI	1,140,000.00
2	Coron Port, Palawan - Construction/Repair of Port	2002 CI	760,000.00
3	Dumaran Port, Palawan - Rehab/Expansion of Port	2002 CI	475,000.00
4	Linapacan Port, Palawan - Improvement of Port	2002 CI	2,850,000.00
5	Roxas Port, Palawan - Construction of Repair of Port	2002 CI	950,000.00
6	Tingloy Port, Batangas - Rehabilitation of Port	2002 CI	950,000.00
7	Sto. Domingo Port, Albay - Construction of Seawall	2003	920,000.00
8	Himamaylan Port, Negros Occidental - Rehabilitation of Port	2002 CI	1,840,000.00
9	Bien Unido Port, Bien Unido, Bohol - Improvement of Puerto San Pedro Port	*2002 CI & 2003 GAA	1,840,000.00
10	Sindangan Port, Sindangan Zamb. Del Norte - Construction of Access Road Leading to Port	2003 GAA	1,840,000.00
			13,565,000.00

Note: Lists of Minimum Equipment Requirements per project are indicated in the eligibility forms.

Prospective contractors may participate in the bidding for more than one project per package, provided they met the required IAC Registration, e.g., Ports, Harbor and Offshore Engineering; Roads, Airports and Horizontal Structure; and Building and Industrial Plant; whichever is applicable, based on the total ABC they intend to bid. The minimum experience requirement should be at least 50% of the total project costs undertaken within the last three (3) years.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification of the lowest calculated bid and Award of Contract shall be governed by Republic Act 9184 and pertinent provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) of E.O. 40.

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available to interested bidders on June 25-July 2, 2003, during the office hours (8.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.) at Unit 55, 5th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, upon submission of letter of intent indicating the list of project/s intended to bid, copy of updated PCAB/IAC License, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 to the DOTC Cashier. Interested bidders shall submit their duly accomplished Eligibility Screening Form and attachments to the same Office, not later than 5.00 p.m. of July 07, 2003. The results of the eligibility screening will be available in the same office on July 28, 2003.

Bid/Tender Documents will be available to eligible bidders for issuance on July 28-August 01, 2003 (8.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.) at Unit 55, 5th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 per project to the DOTC Cashier.

The DOTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive minor defect and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

The DOTC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) RENE E. MAGLANQUE
Assistant Secretary for Finance and Comptrollership
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee (BAC)

(PDI – June 24 & July 1, 2003)

BCDA

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS
ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM – PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in Phase 2 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP Phase 2). ADP Phase 2 involves the privatization and development of the Villamor Gateway Center with an approximate area of 24.7 hectares.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ADP Phase 2 that outlines, among others, the requirements that shall enable proponents to participate in the privatization.

The TOR for ADP Phase 2 will be ready for distribution to interested proponents by 30 June 2002 at the BCDA offices. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is Php10,000.00 payable to the BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set for 2:00 p.m., 07 July 2003. The objective of the conference is to discuss the property that form part of ADP Phase 2, the TOR and other clarifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents shall be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to BCDA.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP PHASE 2 COMMITTEE (ADPCom-2)
BCDA Corporate Centre
Gozar cor. Lucas Streets, Villamor Air Base
Pasay City

or they can contact Ms. Aileen R. Zosa or Ms. Bamble L. Andal at telephone numbers 510-0420 or 510-0411

(Sgd.) CHAIRMAN
ADP Phase 2 Committee

(PDI–June 28, July 1 & 10, 2003)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Rev. Joe Mauk (Mr. Trumpo)

is no longer connected with the Caliraya Re-Creation Center which he and Mrs. Mauk founded and built from scratch. Their management contract was not renewed by the owner nor by the Project Governing Board for the rehabilitation of the ASB Group of Companies.

Rev. and Mrs. Mauk are now managing their own project in Rizal, Laguna, near Nagcarlan:

THE RIZAL RE-CREATION CENTER
Arban Street, Rizal, Laguna, 4003
Phone: 049 563-3456

Manila Reservations Office:
Unit 1408, Robinsons Equitable Tower
ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
Phones: 638-7248; 638-7369
e-mail: rrc@itextron.com
rrc@re-creationcenter.com

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

Date: June 11, 2003
Contract No.: Sp01.BSETL.Lw-0314

1. Contract No.: Sp01-BSETL.Lw-0314 — Supply and Delivery of Suspension Insulator Assemblies and Accessories for the Bauang - San Esteban 230 kV Line 2 Stringing Project
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing and delivering complete the suspension insulator assemblies and accessories to TRANSCO's designated stockyard.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is US$ 536,745.00 plus Php 7,298,459.00 from Internal Cash Generation.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino firms and contractors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid.
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by Transco in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Bidding Documents and Eligibility Documents will be available for issuance on June 20, 2003 at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Second Floor, Building No. 2, Power Center, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No. 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Contractor's License and a payment of non-refundable fee of P8,000.00 per copy.
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before July 21, 2003 and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
8. Contractor, not yet included in the Tranco's List of Registered Contractors who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements, duly notarized, which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation including, in the case of procurement of civil works, non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the CIAP;
   - Audited financial statement, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;
   - Contractor's License
9. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee &
Vice President, Eng'g Design and Construction

(PDI - July 1, 3 & 5, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
16TH JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 29
SURIGAO CITY

Land Reg. Case No. 07-2002 — LRA Record No. N-74814

NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING

To the Hon. Solicitor General, Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City; the Director, Land Management Bureau, Escolta, Manila; the Regional Executive Director, Region X, DENR, Cagayan de Oro City; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform, P.T.A. Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman; the Director, Forest Management Bureau, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila; the Provincial Governor, the Provincial Prosecutor, the General Services Officer, the Provincial Engineer, the Public Works and Highways District Engineer, the CENR Officer, CENRO, Land Management Sector, all in Surigao City; the Municipal Mayor, the Municipal Council, Tagana-an, Surigao Del Norte; Jovita Ando, Poblacion, Tagana-an, Surigao del Norte; Municipal Roads, c/o Municipal Mayor, Tagana-an, Surigao del Norte; AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

A 1st Amended application having been filed in the above-entitled case by HRS. OF SERGIA LISONDRA ET AL., represented by Rodolfo N. Lisondra, married to Renita Quesada, No. 89 Quezon Street, Brgy. Atusama, Poblacion, Tagana-an, Surigao del Norte, thru Atty. Hector O. Tayabas, Jr., Tayabas Law Office, 2nd Flr., Laurente Bldg., Rizal St., Surigao City, praying for the registration and confirmation of the title to the following described land:

A parcel of land (Lot 595, AP 16-000608 being a portion of lot 595, Cad-702-D, LRC Record No.) situated in Barrio of Aurora, Municipality of Tagana-an, Province of Surigao del Norte, Island of Mindanao. Bounded on the NE, along lines 1-2-3 by the road; SW, along lines 3-4-5 by lot 596, Cad-702-D; by NW, along line 5-1 by lot 594, Cad-702-D. Beginning at the point marked "1" on the plan being S. 50 deg. 38W, 410.85 m. from BLLM No. 1, Cad-702-D,

thence N. 55 deg. 54 E., 40.81 m. to point 2,
thence S. 31 deg. 27 E., 30.41 m. to point 3,
thence S. 60 deg. 25 W., 40.96 m. to point 4,
thence S. 25 deg. 41 W., 10.20 m. to point 5,
thence N. 33 deg. 45 W., 19.51 m. to point of beginning; containing an area of ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY ONE (1,221) SQUARE METERS. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground as P.S. cyl. conc. mons. 15x40 cms.; bearings true; date of

You are hereby served this notice to appear before this Court at its session to be held at Regional Trial Court, Branch 29, Surigao City, Philippines on the 16th day of July, 2003 at 8:00 A.M. then and there to present such claim as you may have to said land or any portion thereof, and to submit evidence in support of such claim and unless you appear at said Court at the time and place aforesaid, your default will be recorded and the title to the land will be adjudicated and determined in accordance with law and the evidence before the Court and thereafter you will forever be barred from contesting said application (or petition) or any decree entered thereon.

Witness the HON. JOSE MANUEL P. TAN, Presiding Judge of said Court, this 26th day of February, 2003.

Issued at Quezon City, Philippines, this 3rd day of April, 2003.

ATTEST

BENEDICTO B. ULEP
Administrator
Land Registration Authority

By: (Sgd.) JOSEFINA L. MONTANER
Acting Chief, Docket Division

A True Copy
(Sgd.) ADELAIDA I. CATAIG
Chief, Publication of Notices Section

(PDI–July 1, 2003)

NO JOBS
IN IRAQ YET

Call POEA
at 722-1144
or 722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
TONDO MEDICAL CENTER
Balut, Tondo, Manila

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Tondo Medical Center Bids and Awards Committee (TMC-PBAC) invites all Qualified accredited DOH Suppliers and Bidders to Pre-qualify and to Bid for Drugs/Medicines, Medical Surgical Supplies, Dental, X-ray and laboratory supplies/reagent for Tondo Medical Center.

Only Reputable, Credible and Pre-Qualified Bidders/Supplier are eligible to participate in the bidding.

Interested supplier may obtain the necessary PRE-QUALIFICATION STATEMENT at the Supply Office of Tondo Medical Center c/o Ms. Lolita Oliquiano upon submission of letter of intent. Bring original copies of Firms License for authentication.

For the list of Drugs/Medicine, Medical/Surgical Supplies, Dental, X-ray and Laboratory reagent. Please contact the supply office of Tondo Medical Center, Balut, Tondo, Manila.

SCHEDULE OF PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDDING

	DRUGS/MEDICINE	MEDICAL, SURGICAL SUPPLIES, LAB / X-RAY SUPPLIES
Publication	July 1-3, 2003	July 1-3, 2003
Issuance of Pre-qualification forms	July 4-11, 2003	July 4-11, 2003
Deadline for submission of Pre-qualification forms	July 21, 2003 – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	July 21, 2003 – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Posting of Pre-Qualified Bidders/Supplier	July 24, 2003	July 24, 2003
Submission of samples for evaluation	July 25; 28-31, 2003	July 25; 28-31, 2003
Evaluation of Samples	Aug. 1; 4-8, 2003	Aug. 1; 4-8, 2003
Issuance of Bid Documents	Aug. 11-13, 2003	Aug. 11-13, 2003
Pre-Bid Conference	Aug. 19, 2003 – 9:00-12:00 n.n.	Aug. 21, 2003 – 9:00-12:00 p.m.
Submission of Bids	Aug. 26, 2003 – 8:00-10:00 a.m.	Aug. 28, 2003 – 8:00-10:00 a.m.
Opening of Bids	Aug. 26, 2003 – 10:30 a.m.	Aug. 28, 2003 – 10:30 a.m.

Bid Documents shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders/suppliers upon payment of non-refundable fees of P500.00 pesos at the Cashiers Office – TMC.

Venue for the Bidding Conference, Submission and Opening of bids shall be at the TMC Conference Room.

Tondo Medical Center reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and awards the contract to any bidders whose offer is considered most advantageous to TMC and or to the government. The TMC-PBAC assume no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders to any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) DR. VICTOR J. DELA CRUZ, M.D. CESO IV
Medical Center Chief II

(PDI - July 1, 2 & 3, 2003)

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"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

LUFTHANSA TECHNIK PHILIPPINES
A Joint Venture with MacroAsia Corp.

mourns the death of our friend and co-employee

ARSENIO L. DELOS REYES

of Material Management

Who joined his Creator on 28th of June 2003.

His body lies in state at Rizal Funeral Homes, Libertad, Pasay City.

Interment will be on July 2, 11 a.m. at San Miguel Cemetery, San Miguel, Bulacan.

Our Dearly Beloved

CONSTANCIA BELTRAN Vda. de PINEDA

Has joined her husband Dr. Romulo E. Pineda and peacefully rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of her creator God at the age of 88.

Her bereaved children Corazon (Sr. Jane, RGS) Carmelita, Alberto, Romulo Jr., and Lily, Atty. Reynaldo and Eden, Rodel and Maricel, grandchildren, great grandchildren and all relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at 201 Tecson Street, Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 3, 2003 at San Miguel Memorial Park, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Saint Michael Parish Church.

We design OBITUARIES for free.

On the 2nd Death Anniversary of our Beloved

Bienvenido de Leon Portacio

July 1, 2001

Your presence is very deeply missed, but the memories of your love and kindness will live in us forever.

Loving wife Anita, son & family Nelson, Meanne, Trixia, Bien & Marj.

DEATH NOTICES

ENGR. FELIXBERTO A. MEDIAVILLO, SR.
Peacefully joined our Lord on June 27, 2003 at the age of 91.
Interment will be on July 5, 2003 at the Pasig Cemetery after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

FLORA ISON vda. de SAN ANDRES
Died in the Grace of our Lord on June 29, 2003 at the age of 82.
Interment will be on July 3, 2003 after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

NELDA FELICIANO MANZANO

May 3, 1924 - June 28, 2003

Mommy peacefully joined her creator on June 28, 2003 at the age of 79.

Her loving husband **Capt. Bimbo H. Manzano** (+);
Children **Rene, Andy, Jimmy** (+), **Clarissa, Tess, Benjie and Margie;**
Daughters-in-law **Ruby, Emily, Michelle** and **Joy**
Sons-in-law **Paul Lacson, Greg Yang** and **Monchet Olives;**

Brother **Mundy** and **Zita Feliciano**
and sister **Sr. Teresita, RGS;**
brothers and sisters-in-law **Adi** (+) and **Nenita Manzano,**
Ramon and **Pil Manzano** (+), **Lita** and **Desi de los Reyes;**

Grandchildren **RJ** and his mother **Cherrisse, Bea, JJ, Ian, Chris, Nikko, Jordan, Jerome, Jairo, Judge, Jacqui** and **Anjo Yllana, Jose Mari, Jessica, Jaimee, James Lacson, Paula Lacson, Andrea Yang, Bettina Yang, Catrina Yang, Greggy Yang, Gabby Yang, Gino Yang, Aldo, Claro** and **Diego;**

Great grandchildren **Mika** and **Andee Yllana;**

Faithful helper **Lourdes Lopez**
and constant companion **Mitzi;** relatives and friends
,request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of Mom's soul.

The cremation mass will be held at 2:00pm, July 1st, 2003
at St. Alphonsus de Ligouri Church, Magallanes Village.
Cremation services to follow at 6:00pm,
Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Paranaque.

Funeral services for Mommy will be on July 2nd, 2003,
at 11:00am at the St. Bartolome Church in Magalang, Pampanga.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Lord Resurrection
Parish, Madapdap resettlement, Mabalacat, Pampanga will be appreciated.

CLASSIFIEDS

PMA opens 2003 Agora Awards nominations

THE PHILIPPINES Marketing Association (PMA), the country's most reputable marketing organization, is now accepting entries to the 24th Agora Awards scheduled on Nov. 26, 2003 at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila.

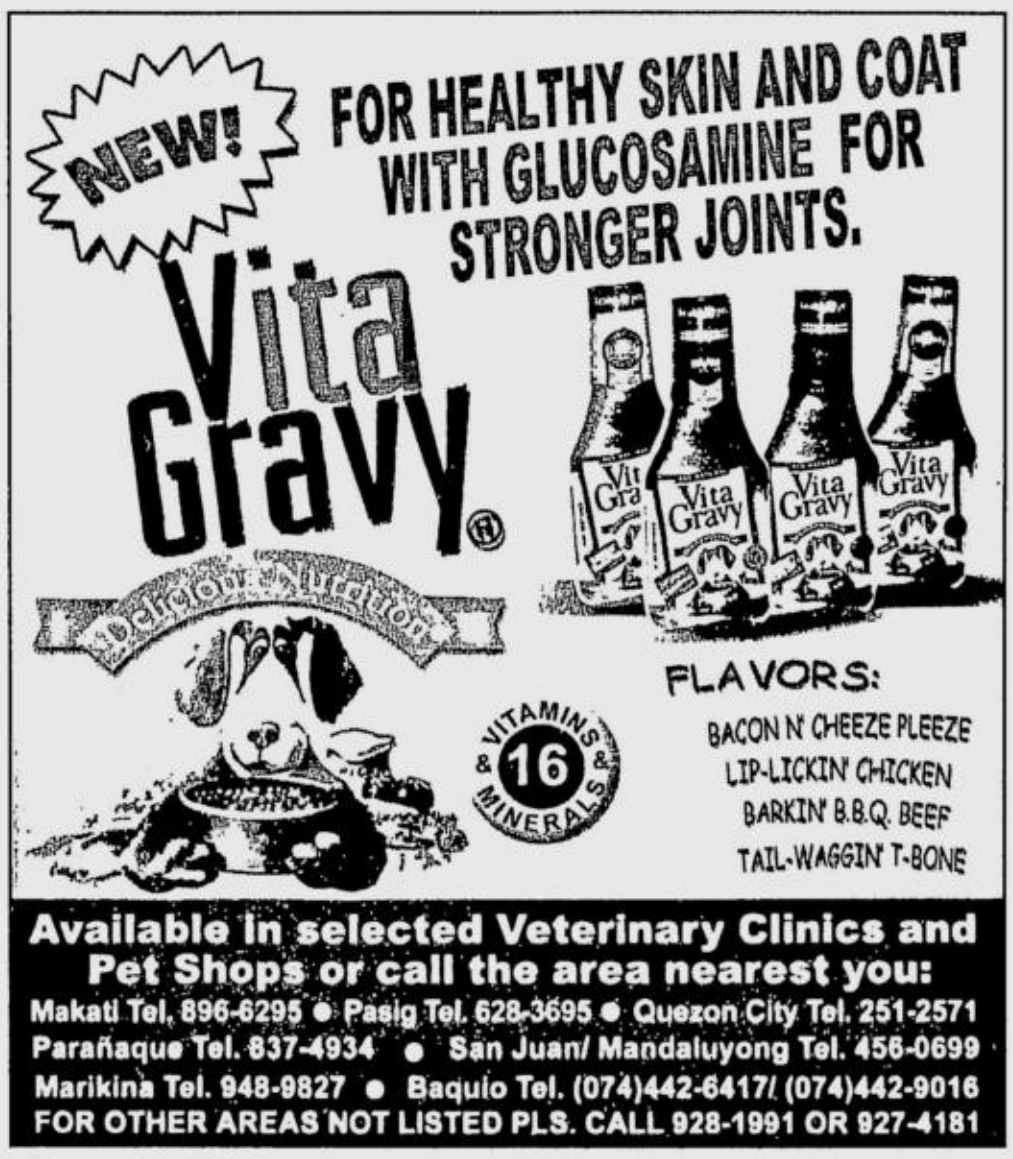
This is annual event where the PMA recognizes deserving companies and individuals who have attained excellence in the field of marketing and have significantly contributed to the growth and development of the marketing profession.

The Agora Awards, the beacon of Filipino marketing excellence, is symbolized by a butterfly undergoing metamorphosis and emerging victoriously from its cocoon, the Agora Awards represent versatility, innovation and ingenuity. It aims to encourage the drive for excellence in the trade and among its practitioners, as well as to improve public opinion on the marketing profession.

Categories are as follows: Marketing Company of the Year; Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship; Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Management; Outstanding Achievement in Export Management; Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Education; The Asia Pacific Agora Award for Marketing Excellence; and Outstanding Achievement in Advocacy Marketing.

Deadline for submission of entries is on Monday, Sept. 15.

For inquiries, call the PMA Secretariat at 892-3144 / 813-0446 / 892-0979 / 893-7127 or fax 892-3261 or e-mail pma@philonline.com.



Resolution to fast-track mass housing signed

By Charles E. Buban

A MEASURE to speed up a number of mass housing projects was recently signed between the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association during the National Developers Convention, an annual event the two have co-sponsored.

The resolution will be used by the HUDCC as well as other government agencies as reference to a draft bill they will present before Congress so that a law can be passed to address the acute housing shortage in the country.

To help the HUDCC in preparing the bill are the departments of Agrarian Reform, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, Interior and Local Government and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board in compliance to Section 10 of Executive Order 45.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo during the National Developers Convention receives an updated performance of SHDA members from its national president, Jesus Atencio (far right) while SHDA chair Teofisto Guingona III (far left) looks on.

More affordable

HUDCC chair Michael Defensor stressed the move is part of the Macapagal administration's mission to make housing more affordable to the poor while at the same time be able to maintain its viability for private developers.

The government hopes to build 500,000 housing units in two years with SHDA members pledging to contribute 200,000 units by 2004.

The government has placed the housing backlog at 3.6 million units, representing 1.8 million in current needs while the other 1.8 million units are projected needs.

"As private developers, we also want to increase our investments in mass housing through the promulgation of EO 45 and other innovative reforms in the shelter sector," said Jesus Atencio, SHDA national president.

Atencio estimates that a low-cost unit ranging from 45 to 120 square meters costs not more than P600 per square meter.

Workshop output

The resolution was the outcome of workshops done during the two-day convention held at the Shangri-La Makati.

The following measures were resolved:

• **Developmental and end-user finance**

—To lower interest rates and lengthen loan maturity offered by private banks to developers, through the wholesale financing of Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) and Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

—To ensure the quality of homebuyer's accounts/loans primarily through a high collection efficiency rate, the contract-to-sell (CTS) scheme should be adopted even for new accounts in the case of Social Security System and GSIS loans at present are adopting only the real estate mortgage scheme.

—To make CTS more attractive and acceptable, a reorientation and intensified information dissemination on this scheme should be undertaken by concerned institutions.

—To facilitate the reacquisition of delinquent accounts, the use of CTS scheme be encouraged vis-à-vis the real estate mortgage.

• **Fast-tracking the mass housing program via legislation**

—To establish a task force with the HUDCC as lead agency and its members to include the DA, DAR, DENR and DILG. The HLURB and the SHDA will review and strengthen the Comprehensive Land Use Planning (CLUP) of local government units and work on legislative measures to fast-track the mass housing program.

• **Future of the overseas market**

—The overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), comprised of sea- and land-based workers estimated at 3.5 million, are potential markets for housing development and will spur economic growth.

—Housing developers will seek the support and assistance of the commercial attaché of the Philippine Embassy present in the country to market their housing projects.

—Developers will seek the assistance of the Overseas Workers and Welfare Administration (Owwa) and through government programs such as Seafarers One-Stop Center and Kabayanihan Program to disseminate their housing projects.

The SHDA estimates that about 1,500 new projects by its members were registered with the HLURB last year, representing a 20 percent increase from 2001's estimate of 1,200 projects and a 66 increase from year 2000's estimate of 900 projects.

"This represents as much as 100,000 new housing units that started last year," said Atencio. "Imagine the more houses that can be built if these measures to boost mass housing are finally instituted."

VERONIQUE model duplex

St. Monique oozing with class, elegance

WITH NUMEROUS available housing communities to choose from, finding our dream home can be such a painstaking task. Quality, longevity, security, affordability and peacefulness are some of the main qualities of a house one has to consider. Fortunately, all these are satisfied by the project known as Saint Monique Valais.

St. Monique Valais is a housing community, developed by Filmal Realty. Aside from the fact that the price range is very affordable to our Filipino family (houses are priced from P815,000 to P1.9 million), also provided are very flexible payments, which can be up to 20 years. It is not the price that separates St. Monique from the rest, but rather the quality and community it has developed. From the grandeur gate and welcoming façade to the carriage-type shuttles and hotel-type lagoons, St. Monique is oozing with class and elegance.

Conscientious building

Another factor that makes St. Monique unique is its motto of conscientious building. This motto makes it possible that every house built goes through the scrutiny of the developer. A hands-on approach is applied to every house, making it possible that the dream of both the developer and the unit owner can be realized. From the stage of building the house all the way to maintaining the community, everything is well taken care of.

As the company president said, "Building houses is the easy part, realizing the dreams of our buyers and maintaining the quality lifestyle we have promised is the main goal of our company."

Main strength

Due to this, security also becomes one of the main strengths of St. Monique Valais, Filmal realty ensures and shows its homeowners that "once they enter the gate of the village, they can be sure that they will feel peacefully at home."

St. Monique Valais is located in Binangonan, 40 minutes away from the business district of Ortigas Center, and currently has a community of 400 houses complete with amenities such as a swimming pool, clubhouse, coffee shop, cascading lagoon and sports areas.

Buying a house in St. Monique Valais is not just an investment that can be passed on to generations but it is more of a gift we can appreciate and enjoy for a lifetime. For inquiries, call Filmal Realty at 534-777.

LRA's Philaris aim: efficient, honest land title registration

THE US$90-MILLION computerization of the operation of the Land Registration Authority, dubbed as the Philippine Land Registration and Information System (Philaris), is a positive response to the problems plaguing the country's land titling system. Once the Philaris is in place nationwide, the public can register transfer of land titles in two hours or less—without a fixer's help. More importantly, the twin evils of double titling and faking of titles will be a thing of the past.

The government lost about P100 billion in potential revenues in the last decade of the 20th century due to land titling corruption and red tape, according to a recent newspaper account. Indeed, bureaucratic processes in registering land transfer and issuance of titles result in poor turnout of land-related transactions.

The sheer number of land administration agencies that the public must contend with and the multiple titling and land transfer processes involved explain why, sometimes, if not often, the public opts not to document land transfers in accordance with existing land administration systems and laws. In other words, because of a cumbersome system, the public ignores, or to put it more aptly, violates the requirements. It takes on a more sinister implication in land-grabbing.

Efficient system

The essential prerequisite for the operation of efficient and equitable land markets is an efficient land titling and registration system. Thus concluded the policy studies by national and international advisers on land administration under the auspices of the Philippine-Australia Land Administration and Management Project (AP-LAMP).

It is the poorer sections of the community that absorb the costs of a dysfunctional land administration system and the informal transactions associated with it, according to the integrated report of the policy advisers.

Recognizing the institutional and structural defects in land administration, the LRA led by Administrator Benedicto B. Ulep is relentlessly pursuing the implementation of its Philaris throughout the country. It will, among others, ensure a faster and more reliable process of land registration and titling, preserve accurate land information and records, and link all LRA levels from the central office down to 16 regional registries of deeds and 162 registries of deeds through a nationwide integrated computerization. It will provide other sectors online and real time access to historical data and other knowledge bases for land titling and registration in various information formats for decision-making.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Accomplishing mission

With Philaris, Ulep hopes, the LRA will accomplish its mission to preserve the stability and integrity of land ownership and maintain public trust and confidence in the Torrens System. The LRA will thus contribute a big share in achieving social and economic well-being and overall national development.

The LRA's private sector project partner, the Land Registration Systems Inc. (Laris), has completed the development phase of the project site and support facilities for the registries of deeds of Quezon City and Parañaque City. Civil works are ongoing for the Cebu City registry of deeds. The data conversion and database build-up processes for certificates of title, supporting documents and municipal/provincial index maps have also been finished, while survey and GIS layer database buildup is expected to be completed soon. Training and workshops on business processes are continuously being conducted for the LRA staff and personnel.

The newly constructed Information Management Center for the Philaris now houses the offices of project management, project control and support, systems integration, the application development center, data center and the LRA micrographics and computer division. Soon, the research and development center will move to the IMC. By mid-2004, registration of land transfers and issuance of titles in Quezon City, Parañaque City and Cebu City registries of deeds will have been fully computerized.

Financial backing

The LRA's land titling computerization project has the financial backing of Stradcom International Holdings Inc., ePLDT, Samsung Corp. of Korea, International Finance Corp., DEG/GMO of Netherlands, and F.F. Cruz & Co. Inc. With project funds in place, Philaris' implementation is being accelerated.

The public, particularly the marginalized sector, can expect to benefit from Philaris once it is in place. Every land-related transaction will be recorded in the computer system database and will make it quite difficult for unscrupulous persons to tamper with records and commit land titling frauds. Since accountability and transparency are enhanced and irregularities are prevented, Philaris will bring about better public service. It will also give LRA the opportunity to help the government in its poverty alleviation and economic development programs.

Architect says wood is 'in'; termites are out

ARCHITECT Rodolfo "Odet" Roque Bongato is one of the reputed professionals in the industry whose clientele is a list of who's who in society. The houses he has designed range from remarkable mansions to quaint rest houses that all elicit a rave response. Filipinos who are glued to the movie and TV screens may have already marveled at the creations of Bongato. Some houses he has built have been used as settings for movies like "Madrasta" of megastar Sharon Cuneta and TV shows like the opulent homes of Telenovela characters on ABS-CBN.

Before he graduated from the University of Sto. Tomas with a degree in architecture, Bongato has already been working as a draftsman for popular architects of that period. Now 47 years old, he is married to Nerissa with whom he has three girls—Pamela, Danielle and Arianna.

He started his own firm, Rodolfo Roque Bongato & Associates in 1985, after getting his license and has been a member of the United Architects of the Philippines from that year up to the present. He has designed and built the residences of prominent families in Makati, Valle Verde in Pasig, Ayala Heights in Diliman, Greenmeadows in Quezon City, Ayala Alabang in Muntinlupa, and as far as Ayala Southvale in Bacoor, Punta Fuego in Batangas and Butuan City.

Mediterranean themes

Lately, his designs mostly carry Mediterranean themes with varying motifs, which he believes are very appropriate in the Philippines because of the weather. "I treat each house as having its own beauty and I feel inspired whenever tasked with a new project. I don't like using steel, because it looks like it's caging a home," he said.

On the other hand, Bongato goes for more natural designs. This complements the emergence of Zen and a revival for the love of wood and natural finishes. In fact, one of his favorite creations is a Zen-inspired house in Ayala Southvale,

"Actually, the composition of wood in modern home makes it look more expensive. Parquet flooring has also a warmer temperature than laminated floors which are cold to the feet," he explained.

Asian trends

"Asian trends are very 'in' nowadays, and I get a lot of requests from homeowners to use such themes in their homes. But everything has a price. For your home to have that trendy and comfortable natural look, you have to endure the possibility of your house getting infested with termites," he said.

True enough, one of Bongato's main concerns lately is how to fight the species that threaten to literally devour all his hard work: termites. Fortunately, he has come across a solution to the pesky termite problem that has been hailed as the most significant development the termite control industry has seen in decades.

Sentricon technology

In year 2000 in Baguio City, during a national conference of the UAP, Bongato got the chance to listen to a seminar presented by Sentricon, a product of Dow Agro Sciences, an industry leader in pest control and training based in the US. They developed the Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System. It was introduced in the Philippines in late 1999.

Although he has been in the business for more than 30 years, Bongato has never found anything as efficient as the Sentricon technology. It offers total protection against termites because it works by getting termites where they live, eliminating entire colonies. Built around the natural behavior of termites, feeding stations are installed in the property. Once the termites feed into the bait, the process of colony elimination begins.

BONGATO

If you want your home or property protected from termite invasion, call 772-9009 or e-mail at wpanuelos@dow.com or visit www.sentricon.com.

10 reasons contractors mess up their business

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

A CONTRACTOR'S success depends a lot on how well they prevent problems that can easily occur during the construction of a project. There is never a lack of chances or opportunities in which contractors can destroy their business and eventually reduce their profits.

BUILDING DREAMS

Failure of contractors can be classified into three different categories, namely: technical failure; business management failure; and contract management failure.

My constant work with designers and contractors for the last two decades has made me observe the most common mistakes that they make. Here is the top 10 of my list and if you are a contractor, make sure that you do your best to avoid them.

ILLUSTRATION: DIONISIO BUCCAT III

Technical failure

Contractors should be technically versed with the ins and outs of construction. They are usually engineers who are educated, trained and with relevant experience. Builders can fail due to technical reasons that include:

• **Sloppy design**—Good construction can never make up for a poor design. So before one starts to build, it should be confirmed that the design of the structures are thought of carefully and evaluated to meet the needs of the end user. Some builders do not want to spend much money in the design thinking that they will just "fix" everything during construction. This is false economy because the cheapest solutions are brought about by properly designed structures. Design professionals are critical to the success of contractors.

• **Inaccurate estimates**—Many contractors do not make a detailed estimate of their projects before they bid and some of them simply rely on past experience. They do not get the job because their bid for a project is too high and if ever they win one because they gave the lowest price, they also end up losing money because the price that they were paid for can never deliver the service that they promised. Having a detailed and accurate estimate for any construction job brings more confidence and increases the probability of getting a construction job.

• **Poor purchasing**—Good material sourcing is a critical success factor in the construction business. Good purchasing is not just getting the lowest price but also involves quality and delivery. Looking at alternative materials and suppliers is a good strategy in trying to bring down costs.

• **Poor pricing decisions**—Even with an accurate estimate, some contractors still would want to shave off their bid price just to ensure that they are the lowest bidder and would eventually win the job. Although dropping prices is a pricing strategy, it is most of the time not sustainable and should be looked at as a short-term strategy.

• **Poor quality control**—A lack of quality procedures and control would only lead to poor workmanship. If this happens, the customer will not accept the job and will only result in rework and additional costs for the builder. Many builders have closed shop due to poor quality.

• **Poor scheduling**—A construction job should be completed on time. Poor scheduling will lead to a project that is delayed which would incur losses on the owner and builder.

• **Unsafe construction site**—An unsafe work site is an unproductive work site. Accidents at the work site affect costs, image and the overall morale of the workers. A responsible builder is one who makes sure that the work site is safe for the employees, customers and its surrounding environment.

Business management failure

There are builders who are technically equipped when it comes to designing and constructing a structure but are ill equipped when it comes to managing people, customers and finances. Management failures include:

• **Poor communication**—In a construction project, the builder constantly interacts with various trades within the project site. These trades include the suppliers, inspectors, owner's representative and laborers. Clear communication of the various trades lead to well understood specifications and expectations. Builders should exert all effort to effectively communicate with all the trades in a project. Poor communication between the owner and the builder can cause a project to fail.

The construction business is both a manufacturing and a service business and it is important that management expectations on employee performance and productivity are constantly communicated. The performance of personnel should be monitored and measured in order to properly manage a construction venture.

• **Poor financial management**—Some builders, upon receipt of their payment, splurge on things that may not be necessary for the successful performance of their business. They use funds of one project in order to finance the other projects. It is best that each project has its own funds and should not be used to support other projects.

Managing finances also includes a good collection policy. Some builders do not collect on time and when the bills start to pile up, they suddenly realize that they can no longer foot the bills that they have to pay.

Contract management failure

A construction contract is a legal contract in which the owner agrees to use the services of the contractor and the contractor also agrees to provide the required services based on the agreed price and specifications. A legal failure is caused by:

• **Poor contract management**—It is the responsibility of the contractor to build to specifications but it is also the responsibility of the owner to pay the builder on time. The construction contract should detail all of the requirements on the project and both parties—the owner and builder—should fully understand these. When in doubt about contract interpretation, builders should always seek the advice of a legal counsel.

Final note

A successful builder is one who knows the business in terms of the technical, management and legal aspects.

Builders are continuously fighting it out in a risky, stressful and a very competitive environment where one small mistake can easily wipe out the profits and bring a company down. So the next time you get their services, be nice to them.

(Alexis A. Acacio is an associate professor of civil engineering at the University of the Philippines. For comments and advice you may reach him at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph or call 952 0684.)

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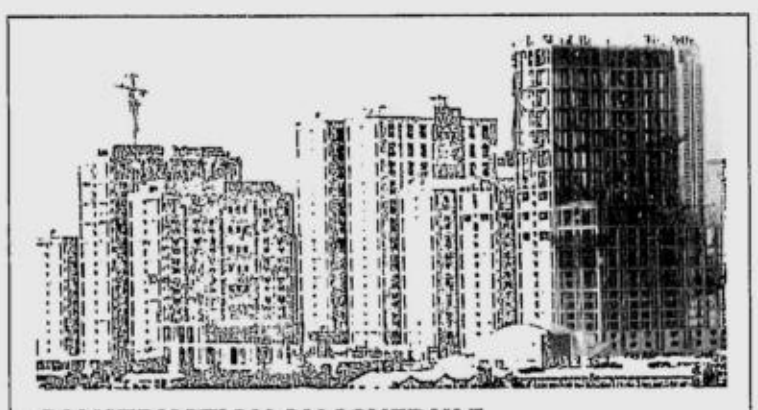

CONSTRUCTION ON SCHEDULE
Housing developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. said work is proceeding on schedule for its multicluster California Garden Square residential project in Mandaluyong City. Exterior plastering and masonry, painting and roofing works and glass installation have been substantially completed while installation of wall partitions and application of interior finishing are currently ongoing for all four towers of Cluster Anaheim, expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2004.

Forum on choosing offices set July 11

A FORUM that tackles the preferred qualities for building and office sites for telecommunications, broadcasting, information technology-related businesses such as call centers and telemarketing will be held on July 11 at 3 p.m. at the 8th floor of the España Tower.

Organized by the RubyComm, this forum is titled "Maximizing Media and IT Businesses through Hi-Tech Offices."

Forum speakers are Antonio Lopez, president and chief executive officer of Data Stream Inc.; Rodolfo Santos, telecoms installations consultant with long years of experience with the NEC; and Lynn Maceda, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Filipinas Form and Land Corp., the property arm of an internationally noted construction company.

Lopez presents his insights on "Projecting IT Businesses for the Long Term" while Santos tackles "Emerging Telecoms Technologies and Their Impact on Choosing and Maximizing Office Locations."

Maceda, for her part, deals with the Criteria of Property Developments Targeting Telecoms and IT-Related Businesses including Call Centers and Telemarketing. She brings in her talk The Espana Tower experience in attracting telecoms and IT companies as locators. At the 32-story España Tower, existing locators are Eastern Telecoms, Nextel, Globe and GMA–7.

Interested forum participants can register by accessing www.rubycomm.com/infotechoffices or by calling 453-4553, 456-0882, 456-0932, 0917-5331936 or 0918-9422546 or email ffland@ffcruz.com.ph. Registration package is P800.

Unique site boosts sales of Paseo

DESPITE the lukewarm business climate, property giant Ayala Land Inc. appears to be bucking the trend with the sale of its lots in the Magallanes Village area in Makati. In less than a week, half of its inventory of residential lots in the last phase of the 7.4-hectare Paseo de Magallanes, a mixed-use project adjacent to the established residential village, were sold. A number of indicators point to the fact that the commercial lots in this phase, when offered to the public, will most likely move as briskly.

Ayala Land urban planners attribute the strong performance of Paseo de Magallanes last phase consisting of 14 residential and nine commercial lots to its location at the crossroads of the South Luzon Expressway and Edsa, two major Metro Manila thoroughfares. Metro Manila traffic studies show that as many as 180,000 vehicles pass through the area each day and that as many as 400,000 commuters likewise traverse Paseo de Magallanes daily.

Access

Notes Art Corpuz, head of Ayala Land's urban planning unit: "Accessibility greatly enhances one's ability to reach a wider market. Paseo de Magallanes' accessibility to the Southern Luzon region, Manila, Quezon City and Makati ensures very high visibility for businesses that will locate in the area."

At the same time, it is less than a kilometer to the country's biggest business district, a clear advantage for enterprises as well as business executives and their families who wish to avoid having to travel long distances to work.

Still another attraction of Paseo de Magallanes, particularly to businesses, is its proximity to the mass transit system. Says Corpuz: "Magallanes offers a very wide variety of access routes—from high-capacity mass transit to private vehicles." Through the MRT, the Makati business district is just one stop away.

Best of both worlds

Very few other planned communities as close to the Makati business district still has the small-community, low-density ambience of Paseo de Magallanes. According to Tristan dela Rosa, ALI senior vice president, "In a sense, Magallanes offers the best of both worlds—elbow room for biking, gardening, and practicing one's golf swing as well as being 10 minutes away by car from work."

He relates that most of those who bought residential lots in Paseo de Magallanes were primarily attracted by the project's proximity to the business district, a fact that allows them to cut back on commute time and to achieve better balance between work and family responsibilities. Residential lots range from 350 to 440 square meters.

Complete community

Planned as a complete community with close links to the business district, Paseo de Magallanes already has a number of restaurants, a coffee bar, grocery and other convenience retail establishments to service residents and employees. More stores and dining places are expected in the low-rise buildings which will be constructed by individual owners in the commercial zone.

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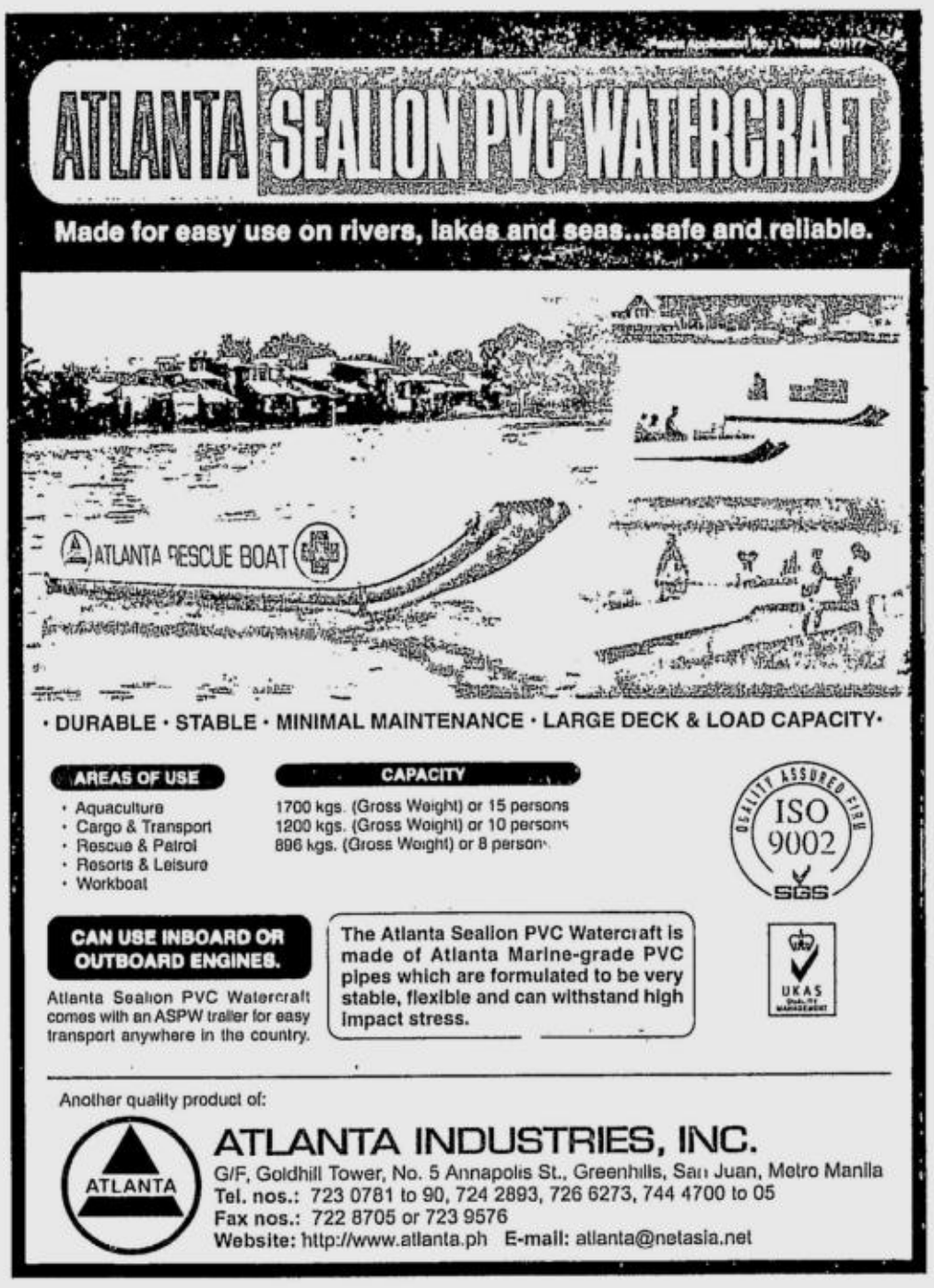

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REALESTATE

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

THE RCBC Tower places third in the new and existing building category of the Asean Energy Awards.

Architects want buildings to rely more on nature

By Tessa R. Salazar

ENERGY shortage influences how designers create modern buildings.

Most modern buildings are designed to reduce electric consumption for air conditioning and lighting. A typical building spends about 60 percent in air-con, 20 percent in lighting and another 20 percent in motors, pumps, elevators and other mechanical system.

There are buildings, however, that exploit the natural daylight.

Architect Amado de Jesus, chair of Green Architecture Movement of the United Architects of the Philippines, said there are progressive building designers who have become advocates of energy and environment.

The Asean Energy Awards, for instance, encourages countries to be more conscious with energy-efficient buildings through a regional competition.

Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand, among others, are active participants in the Asean Efficiency and Conservation Best Practices Competition for Energy-efficient Buildings (now on its fifth year).

Categories

Asean countries could send in entries in any of the four categories: the new and existing building; the retrofitted building (for buildings that have made significant energy savings after modification); tropical building and the special submission.

The tropical building includes passive landscape designs, cool environment and natural lighting. The special submission is for buildings that have technical features found in mechanical and air-conditioning systems (e.g. solar-powered mechanism).

Recent awardees for the new and existing buildings category (buildings not more than five years old) included Shinhawatra University in Thailand (first place), Capital Tower Building in Singapore (second place) and the RCBC Tower on Ayala Avenue, Makati (third place).

Qualified to compete are hospitals, office buildings, hotels, schools—buildings that have predictable working hours.

An energy efficiency index would determine buildings that would qualify for the competition. The measurement includes a certain number of kilowatt-hours per square meter per year while the lighting would be measured via watts per sq. m.

Standard requirements and specific number of pages for the presentations explaining the features of the buildings (accompanied by photos) are scrutinized.

Judges are scheduled to convene in a particular country to fill up their scoring sheets.

De Jesus, whose the vice chair for Asean Energy Awards, stressed that efficiency would mean being able to use less of electricity but producing enough lighting and thermal comfort for the occupants.

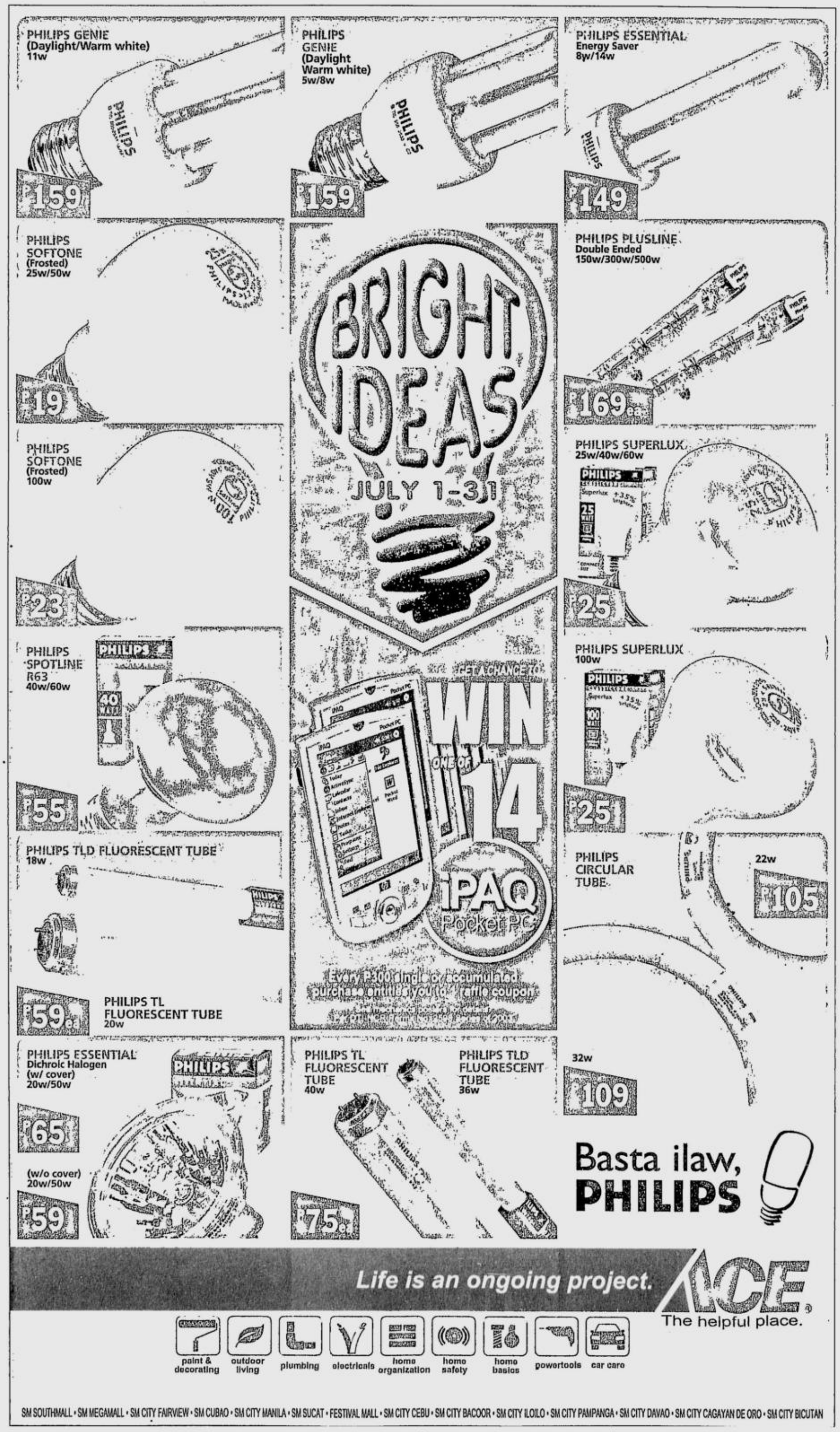
Water, air quality

Green architecture design also involved quality of water and air. Not properly examined air-con freons are harmful to the ozone layer. Some building materials can harm the environment.

Water-efficient buildings, meanwhile, use recycled water, also known as "gray water," specifically for purposes of cleaning, irrigation and for the toilets. There are also buildings that collect rainwater, have them filtered and utilize for other purposes.

Another material for consideration is water-based paint. The previous preference was oil-based.

De Jesus said there are many ways to achieve energy efficiency, two of which are the active (mechanical system like pumps, aircon, lighting, electrical equipment) and the passive designs (building materials, roof design, walls and windows).



TAKING part in the "human chain" to bring concrete bricks to the build site in Taguig are Globe Telecom executives headed by Corporate and Regulatory Affairs SVP Rodolfo Salalima (left), Human Resource head Cesar Maureal (middle) and Strategic Staffing and Employee Relations head Ruel Maranan.

Globe builds dream homes

ANSWERING the call of Habitat Humanity Philippines Foundation in providing decent housing for the poor, Globe Telecom's top management and employees recently participated in their "Dream Build 2003' activity.

A total of 160 Globe and Islacom employees volunteered to build houses simultaneously in key areas in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao. Apart from offering volunteer work in building the houses, Globe and Islacom employees also raised cash donations for the foundation to help finance its nationwide housing projects.

For this year, Globe sponsored and helped build a total of four houses. This is composed of two houses in Taguig, one in Cebu and one in Davao.

This is the fifth year that Globe Telecom is participating in the worldwide house-building activity. During the previous years, Globe had helped build houses in Las Piñas; Tagaytay; Nasugbu, Batangas; Pinaglingonan and a previous site in Taguig.

Maurice Arcache spots the young and famous /C4

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Sporty outfits that 'lighten' heavy bottoms

By Kinny Salas

The harsh truth is 70 percent of women get thick first in the hip and thigh areas before anywhere else

I HAPPEN to be one of those people who are gym-phobic. It started when I was working out and I overheard two trainers discussing the "burrito" at 50 degrees; one was wearing cycling shorts almost bursting at the seams because of her heavy thighs. The woman was very slim from the waist up but bottom-heavy. I went back to working out in the privacy of my room with my trusty videos.

Most exercise clothes are designed to flatter women who are naturally thin or top-heavy with slim hips and legs. But the harsh truth is 70 percent of women—and that includes me—get heavy first in the hip and thigh areas, before anywhere else.

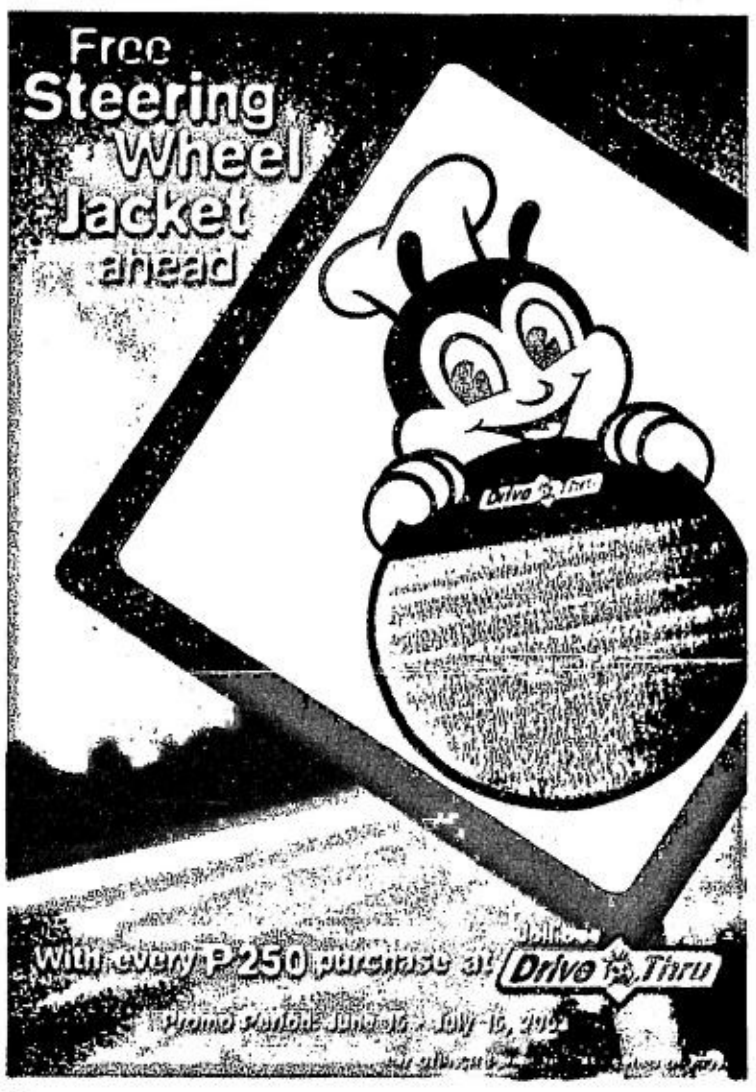
FITNESS apparel from Converse

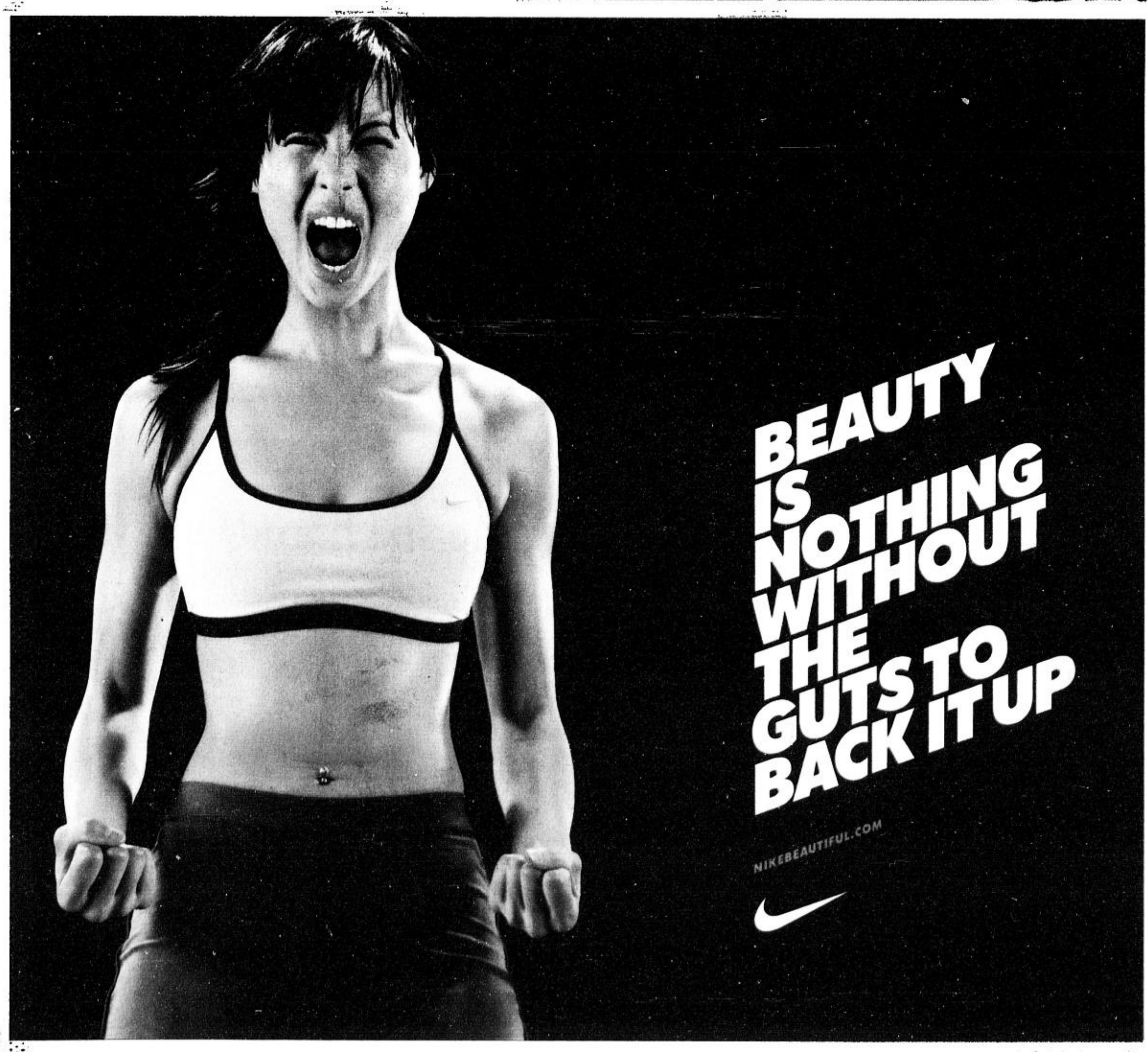
PHOTOS: WWW.CONVERSE.DE

I looked around stores for flattering gym gear that suited my body type and fitted my budget, and was surprised to find it in Converse—I didn't even know the brand had ladies' apparel. The price tag was very friendly and the material very durable and fade-resistant. A fab find: the long shorts with built-in briefs priced at P539 that reached below the knee to midcalf, depending on height; made hips look slimmer and hid heavy thighs. Wear any tight shirt to show off slim torso.

For those with heavy legs as well, I suggest you complete the look with the White Road Traveler sneakers at P1,790 with a chunky retro style that makes calves look slimmer and longer. Modern technology has been harnessed to ensure comfort.

Optional: I liked the quality of their absorbent shirt in cedar green/navy blue combination at P339.75. It had curves to flatter a woman's waistline. The cycling shorts offered tummy and buttocks control at P450.





From Dead Sea to skin restoration

By Cheche V. Moral

PERHAPS there's no poster girl for beauty formulations from the Dead Sea more famous than Egypt's Cleopatra, who was said to have asked her lover, Mark Antony, to conquer the Dead Sea so that she would never run out of beauty supplies.

Dead Sea Premier does not have Cleopatra as its model, but it is quick to proclaim its difference from other skin-care manufacturers. The Israeli company is the maker of Premier cosmetics, which was introduced here last March by Cruise Control Inc. (CCI). Premier boasts of the Dead Sea's natural minerals as its main ingredient.

HAIM Katzav

For 3,000 years, says Haim Katzav of CCI, people have attested to the astonishing effects of the Dead Sea's minerals on the skin. "We think we [in Israel] invented the spa," he adds, "and the Dead Sea is the ancient spa... Those who go to the Dead Sea [and cover their bodies with the mud] feel a difference on their skin instantly," he says. "[It's] very powerful."

Though the minerals found in the Dead Sea can be found in other places, they are not in similar concentrations as in Israel, Katzav says.

Dead Sea Premier's brochure claims the minerals assist the skin's "natural ability to renew itself by stimulating the epidermal cells and restructuring the skin's balance."

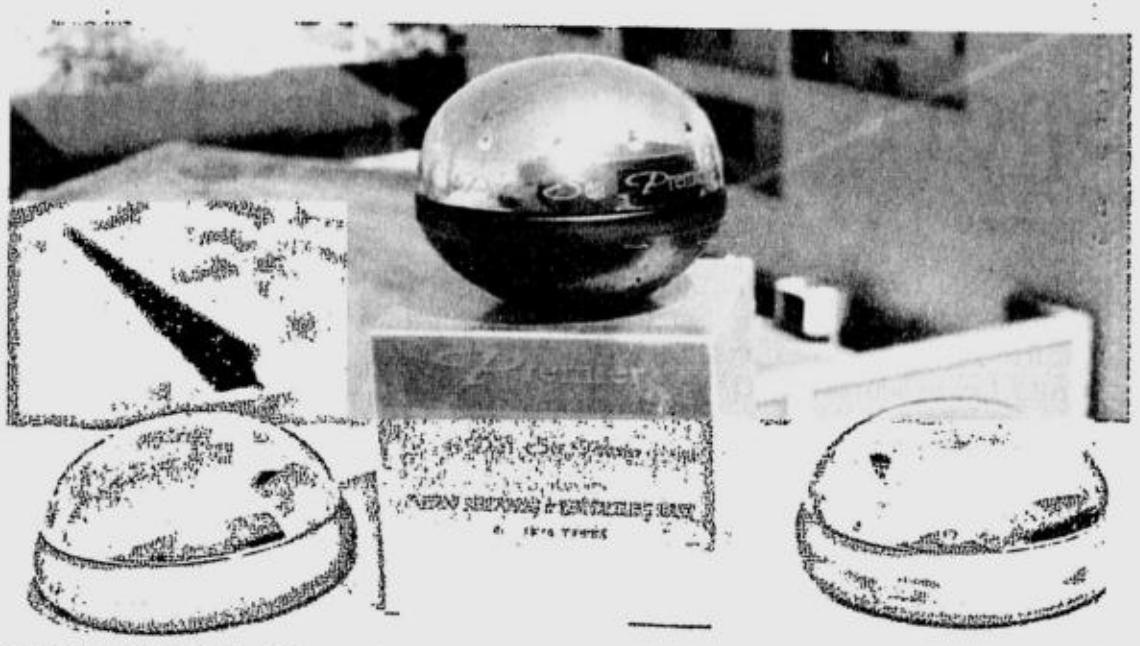
Back to nature

While cosmetics made from the Dead Sea's "mud" is not exactly novel to Filipinos, Katzav says Premier may be the only one of its kind available to the local market. "People are going back to nature—from the things they eat to their overall lifestyle. It's only right that they go back to nature when it comes to caring for their skin."

Established in 1981, Premier is the only one among many brands that tout the benefits of Dead Sea minerals. There are those that come from Israel (Premier, among them) and from the other side of the Dead Sea, Jordan. "But technology is highly advanced in Israel, so that makes all the difference," Katzav claims.

The mineral-rich mud is mined from the deepest part of the earth (400+ meters below sea level) and goes through a meticulous process of screening, heating and cleaning before it is mixed with other ingredients.

Dead Sea Premier is cosmetics whose wonderful skin-care benefits come like a biblical revelation



THE WONDERS of Dead Sea mud now come in pots.

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

For the past five years, Premier has been selling remarkably well in other Asian countries like Japan and Thailand.

For the Philippines, Premier initially introduced 31 products such as facial cleansers, cream gels, facial masks, body and hair care and men's products.

Katzav, however, says they will soon be trimming down the list to 15. "People have a tendency not to believe in a product they haven't tried," Katzav explains. "The breast-firming serum and cellulite control creams are doing well in other countries, but they're selling lousily here."

Compared to Thais, he observes, Filipino women also have a tendency to focus only on their faces and neglect their necks, so sales of the Neck Cream have been flagging.

Very popular

The Pearl Reflecting Whitening Complex, meanwhile, is very popular. He was surprised to learn even men have been buying the product. "It's not [exactly] a whitening cream, but it makes the skin look brighter," he says.

The Hair Mud Mask, the Anti-Wrinkle Cream and the Instant Stretching and Revitalizing Mask are also getting their fair share of attention. Katzav claims the latter, which he calls the "cheating mask," has an instant Botox-like effect that temporarily erases facial lines. "We wanted to appeal to women aged 35 and up, but even those in their 20s have been buying," he says.

Premier's most popular product is the Mask Miracle Noir. Quite understandable since, when applied, it brings to mind visions of mud-bathed tourists in the Dead Sea—the very picture that heightened the place's reputation as a natural beauty source.

Katzav noted how majority of Filipinos are easily intimidated by high-priced cosmetics, so pricing was a major consideration. A pot of Mask Miracle Noir, for instance, initially retails for P1,200, about P500 less than its actual price. "We try to explain that [a pot] will last you six months since you have to apply it only once a week..." At Premier outlets, the sales personnel are trained to show how each product works and to give samples.

But, like every cosmetic brand in the market, the question remains: Does Premier work?

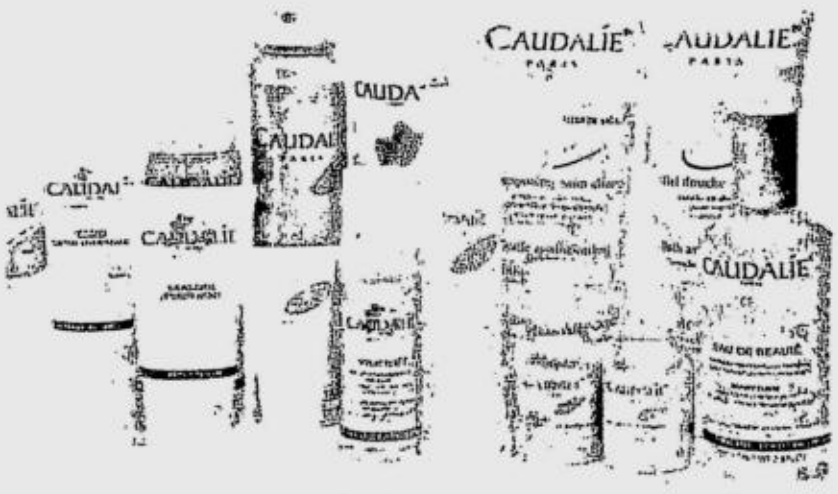
"My best answer is, people who have tried come back to the store," says Katzav. "Filipinos don't complain," he observes, "which is bad for them as consumers and for the manufacturer. The only way you can improve is by complaining. To be different, we want to know the response. We want to hear if you have any complaints [about our products]... So far, we have gotten only good reactions because people come back."

Premier is available at Watson's-SM Megamall, Watson's-Podium, Cinderella-Glorietta, Danielle Spa-Libis, Zen Spa-The Fort, Basement Salon-Rockwell, and select dermatology clinics. Call 562-9862, fax 562-6046, e-mail haim@itextron.com or visit www.c.c.i-premierdeadsea.com

Skincare products from grapes

CAUDALIE is a French word that measures a wine's length or, more specifically, the duration of persistence of the wine's flavors in the mouth after tasting. One second of persistence is equal to one caudalie. The greater the wine, the more caudalie it has.

In recent years, the word *caudalie* has been associated with something beyond wine but with beauty as well. Caudalie is the name of a growing French skincare brand which has gained a cult following among beauty enthusiasts and celebrities in Europe, Asia and the United States.



Caudalie is a brand which utilizes grape seeds as its main active ingredient. Procyanidolic Oligomers (OPC), contained in grape seeds, were recently discovered to be 10,000 times more powerful than Vitamins C and E in fighting free radicals that cause damage to the skin. Caudalie was the first to use this stabilized grape seed formula in cosmetic science through a research agreement with the Faculty of Pharmaceuticals of the Bordeaux University.

OPC or polyphenols are known to possess many pharmacological properties. They increase the strength of the blood vessels by boosting microcirculation, protect elastin and collagen fibers which maintain skin elasticity and suppleness, and prevent the destruction of hyaluronic and glucuronic acids which are essential components of the skin's support tissues.

Caudalie is a full line skincare brand with products for all skin types, targeting different skin needs. It has cleansers and moisturizing creams for day and night as well as serums and masks. The brand also produces hair and body products as well as a body spray dubbed Fleur de Vigne, an energizing fragrance that also gives a boost of freshness. Caudalie even has the Beauty Elixir based on the formula passed on by generations of Hungarian queens.

Caudalie products are used by celebrities such as Madonna, Elle McPherson and Courtney Cox. The brand is sold in luxury department stores all over the world and is available locally at Essenses at Rustan's only. Its products are also used in exclusive spas in France which utilize Vinotherapie or grape therapy. The founders of Caudalie built one of the world's most exclusive spas that utilize their products right in their estate, among the vines of Chateau Smith Haut-Lafitte near Bourdeaux.

PAPAYA bath and body line

A moisturizing experience

THE BODY Shop relaunches its bath and body collection, introducing a new ingredient, papaya.

The new collection features three of Body Butter moist ingredients: Grape Seed, Mango and Melon Seed. These form the basis of the new bath and body care range.

You can now cleanse, exfoliate and moisturize with bath and body care treats containing your much loved ingredient from the Body Butter collection. Or you can mix and match your body care products from each range to create your own bespoke regime.

Each of the four natural key components has specific skin benefits. Most of which are community traded. So everyone, from those with normal to those with very dry skin can find the combination of products to suit all their skin needs every day.

Like the original Body Butter range, the new stable of bath and body care products introduces Bath and Shower Creams and Gels and extends the range of Body Scrubs, Dry Oil Mists and Soaps. Nearly all of these products are available in each of the four ingredient options: papaya, melon seed, mango, grape seed. Every ingredient offers an incredible range of skin benefits, many of which have been tried and tested by women and their families across the world for centuries.

GRAPE Seed bath and body line

The products are available at all The Body Shop stores.

Bring the spa home with you

LONG before well-being became a buzzword, a beauty company created a line of plant-based products designed to relax and de-stress. Fifty years ago, Clarins introduced a world of beauty based on plants. The company was the first to come up with the Body Treatment Oil, a 100-percent plant-based natural body oil to soothe and relax, and has expanded this line of products to include body polishers and balms that bring spa treatment right into your home.

Clarins introduces its Toning and Relaxing Body Polishers formulated with essential oils that melt over the skin to make it smoother. These body polishers exfoliate and clean the skin to free it of dead surface skin cells and impurities.

Since our body cells are naturally washed with salty saline solution and energized by sugars, Clarins formulated these body polishers to include a unique combination of sugar and salt crystals. Skin moisture dissolves salt crystals which soften dead skin on the surface and sugar, naturally melted by body heat, then coats dead cells and lifts them away as the polisher is rinsed off.

The Toning Body Polisher contains 100 percent natural essential oils of geranium, rosewood, rosemary and mint. The aromatherapeutic properties of these ingredients help the body feel fresh and revitalized. Relaxing Body Polisher contains the essential oils of geranium, basil, petit grain and chamomile which helps the body relax and eases away stress and fatigue.

CLARINS Toning and Relaxing Body Polishers

After the shower, Clarins home spa experience calls for Toning or Relaxing Body Balms to be massaged over the skin. The balms' main ingredient is Apple Seed Oil which is rich in lipids and contains Vitamin E that provides skin cells with nutrients. Toning Body Balm also contains ginseng extract to increase skin vitality and firmness while Relaxing Body Balm contains a complex of marshmallow, sweet almond and linseed extracts which provide the skin with essential sugars and oils to help it relax.

Clarins' Aroma Body Care range with Essential Oils also include Relax and Tonic Bath and Shower Concentrate as well as Contour Bath and Shower Concentrate, Relax Oil, Tonic Oil and Body Treatment Oil. These, and a full line of Clarins products, are available exclusively at Rustan's.

Weekend of skin pampering

THE ROAD to a smooth, hair-free skin now leads to Robinsons Place Manila, as Body Natur treats women to a weekend of fun, fitness and skin pampering on its first mall tour until July 3.

Body Natur, a new depilatory product from Viokox of Spain, distributed by Blooming Fields Phils., brings to the public the latest trends in removing unwanted hair, fast and easy.

Mall shoppers will get the chance to experience the convenience of hair removal using Body Natur, as free trials and demonstrations on how to use each product will be given to those interested. Instructional audio-visual presentations and television commercials will also be continuously airing at the booth, which will be located at the Atrium Center. Freebies and other exciting prizes also await lucky customers who will buy Body Natur products and Wax Perles Kits.

As an added treat, winners of the recently concluded Slimmer's World Bikini Bodies, Chinggay Andrada and Percival de la Cruz, will visit the booth to give free fitness consultations to shoppers who want to stay fit and healthy.

Call 722-4637 or 724-6288 or log on to www.bloomingfields.net.

Can a spell change one's love life?

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

DOES spell casting work? Is it really possible to change the destiny of a person, especially in areas of love and money, by merely casting a spell?

I chanced upon a website of an astrology association in California boasting of its numerous successful spells cast upon individuals through testimonials from customers.

I hope you can enlighten me on this before I cast my own spell to change my present love life.

CHRISTINE

Before answering your question on whether it's worth having a spell cast for you by that association, which I suppose will be done for a fee, let me discuss the nature of spells.

We can define a spell as a definite verbal expression or command directed at a person or group of persons to achieve a specific effect, whether for good or ill.

A spell is essentially and primarily a mental process, usually with accompanying rituals, symbols and paraphernalia. In my opinion, the rituals and materials used only serve to reinforce the mental process or focus and have no power of their own.

The word "hex" is often used in place of "spell." Although they mean the same thing, hex is often associated with sorcery.

According to one book of spells, the word "hex" comes from the German "hexe," meaning witch. This word, in turn, can be traced to the Greek "hex," meaning six.

The mystic significance of the number six goes back to 3,000 B.C. when the Chinese Emperor Fu-Hsi is said to have invented a system of future-telling called the I Ching or "Book of Changes."

The system consisted of six parallel lines called hexagram, containing some broken and some continuous lines, each line having a particular meaning in relation to the overall pattern.

Most people associate the I Ching and its famous hexagrams only with fortune-telling. Few realize its use for casting spells.

However, as a method for casting spells, the hexagram is considered extremely dangerous and the beginner is advised to avoid it until he has gained proficiency with simple methods.

The danger lies in this. With the hexagram, there comes a point of no return where the spell or hex acquires a life of its own. It takes over and nothing on earth can stop or reverse its intended action.

But this danger is true of all spells, to a lesser or greater degree.

Power of spells

The power of spells lies in the fact that thoughts are things. They have power and energy. So when a command is said with great force, focused intention, strong will and emotions, the desired effect will usually take place.

But can a person prevent a spell or hex from working on him or her?

Yes, if he has a strong will, is positive in his thinking and has only love at heart. A spell can only work best on a willing victim, whether consciously or unconsciously.

There is a saying, "You can bring the horse to the water, but you can't make it drink." In the same manner, you can make a person pay attention to you or call you, but you can't make him fall in love with you simply by casting a spell.

But I've met many people in the Philippines, some of them highly credible and respectable, who believe that a spell works like magic, that they can make a person of the opposite sex fall for them even on the first meeting.

Maybe it works only on the weak-willed or on persons with unstable personalities or confused values.

So, to answer your question if you should consider answering that advertisement and have a spell cast for you to change your love life, I would say, "Forget it!"

Save your money and just buy a book on proper visualization to get what you want in life. Spells sometimes work, but they never work all the time or with everybody.

Also, it is against nature and the moral order to force your will on another person. A relationship based on effects of spells or *gayuma* never lasts, if it works at all.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Call 810-7245 or 892-6806 or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my DZMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Spells can work on the weak-willed, on those with unstable personalities or confused values

A little learning can save a child's life

MANY pediatric emergency cases can be avoided if only parents and *yayas* know basic safety rules in childcare. But safety rules are often disregarded either through lack of education or sheer carelessness.

This was pointed out by Dr. Rhea Cabrera-Ribaya, head of St. Luke's Medical Center Pediatric Emergency Medicine Unit, an integral part of the hospital's ER. The section has nine rotating doctors specializing in Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Neonatology, Ambulatory Pediatrics and Pediatric Cardiology, among others. It was set up early this year to address the increasing number of emergency pediatric cases.

Since it opened, Ribaya's section attends to an average of 1,000 young patients every month.

ER cases include infectious diseases like high fever with colds and cough, diarrhea, pneumonia (whether viral or bacterial), falls, accidental ingestion of poisonous substances or objects, dog bites, burns and scalds, and drowning.

Pediatric Emergency doctors not only treat patients but also provide guidance on safety and prevention. Parents and household help are advised to keep harmful objects and substances away from children. The medicine cabinet should be out of the child's reach and all bottles properly labeled.

The doctors also advise caution in the use of walkers or *andadors*, which Dr. Ribaya said was a major cause of falls. She added that in the United States, mobile walkers had already been banned. The parent or *yaya* should properly supervise children when using the *andador*. Pet owners should make sure animals are properly immunized.

Anyone looking after a sick child should avoid panicking. If the child has high fever, giving sponge baths (ordinary tap water will do) round the clock will help lower the temperature. But a sudden drop in temperature caused by putting ice or putting the child under the shower should be avoided. Applying alcohol to the body is a big no.

If the child is vomiting, turn his head to one side to prevent backflow that could choke the child. As for seizures, which normally last from three to five minutes, never put any object like a spoon in the mouth. When the seizures stop, bring the child to the hospital right away.

Scientific evidence shows that children chronically exposed to cigarette smoke suffer from chest infections and are also prone to ear infections. Parents can help prevent secondary smoke from getting into their children's lungs by not smoking.

Some precautionary measures are recommended to prevent sickness and accidents now that classes have resumed and the rainy season has started. Children, especially those in flood-prone areas, should be discouraged from playing outdoors so they do not catch cold and fever as well as leptospirosis, a disease caused by rats' urine.

Care should also be taken to protect kids from drowning, in view of the growing number of children falling into manholes or getting swept by strong currents.

Dr. Ribaya said most accidents and diseases affecting children could be prevented if people would learn how.

Call 723-0101 locals 4214 and 4216.

1,800 runners join power race at Rockwell

PLANET Sports Inc. recently sponsored the second annual New Balance Power Race at the Rockwell Center in Makati City. More than 1,800 runners from all ages, male and female, joined the different categories of the Power Race, a fun run for children, 3-K run for media, 10-K corporate team race and 25-K marathon. Topping the main event were Reynaldo Pascua and Gloria Diaz who ruled the men's and women's categories, respectively, earning them the right to represent the country in the Asian Power Race to be held in Singapore late this year.

Meanwhile, Procter and Gamble's four-man Alpha Team bagged first place in the corporate team race, besting 19 other entries from the country's top firms. "Unang Hirit" sports editor Lito Oredo copped top honors in the media fun run.

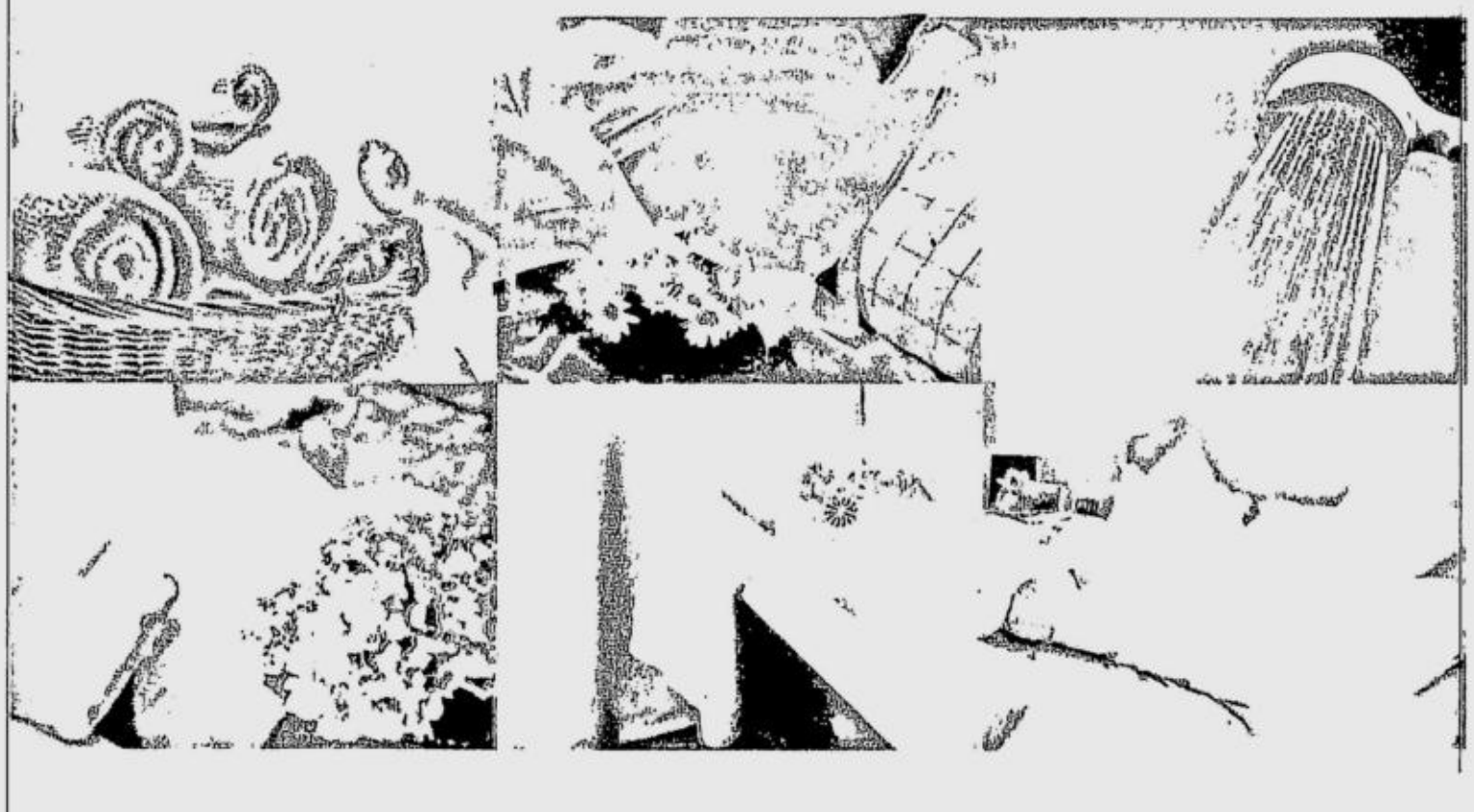
Now on its second staging, Power Race is one of the fastest rising sporting events in the country sponsored by Planet Sports Inc., local distributor of New Balance shoes.

PLANET Sports Inc. division manager Rizza Torres, sportscaster Anthony Suntay, TV celebrity Giselle Sanchez, Planet Sports president Anton Gonzales, consultant Arun Bardwaj and PSI product manager Bing Pineda

Robinsons Department Store

Bed & Bath Sale

July 1 to 15



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PHILIP "Ipe" Cruz, the Bubble Boy of the moment

RUSTAN'S popular U, rah! rah! gent Joel Tantoco, who has an off-and-on relationship with Victoria London.

STEPHANIE Zubiri all set to fly to Paris for higher studies.

GP Reyes, the Pied Piper of the pack

BEAUTIFUL COUPLE. Gorgeous Wendy Puyat and her husband, popular Hong Kong businessman Anthony Hotung, open their trendy boutique Lily at Glorietta.

A short list of Manila's Most Invited but Unwelcome Guests, plus a weekend of celebrity-spotting

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on Kodak Max

No names, please, just hints on the first 15 of 30 guests who are invited because they are useful in some way to the hosts but are not and never will be 'in'

FROM THE CONTROVERSIAL 100 Most Invited list that I wrote in the Philippine Tatler, our social pendulum swings to the 30 Most Invited But Unwelcome Guests, a list that's sure to keep tongues wagging and phone lines burning in Manila.

Who are these people? Well, they are usually invited by force because of their political affiliations, social standing, business connections or anything that may open doors for the host. Many a time I've heard a host say, "I had to invite him because of favors I may need in the future." And in the next breath, "Sometimes I wish he won't show up because many of the guests wish he won't show up."

I'll give you the first 15 today and come out with the next 15 on Friday. See how close you get to guessing who they are, *palanggas*.

1 This woman has a plastered sour look on her face all the time. Although she is part of several religious organizations, she looks unapproachable and will bite your head off if you speak to her. She is the lady who, sadly, cannot control herself and falls asleep.

2 This gentleman for all seasons who is always on a power trip is definitely in the unwelcome guest list. He throws his weight around like a charging bull, with an air of arrogance that makes lots of people smirk behind his back.

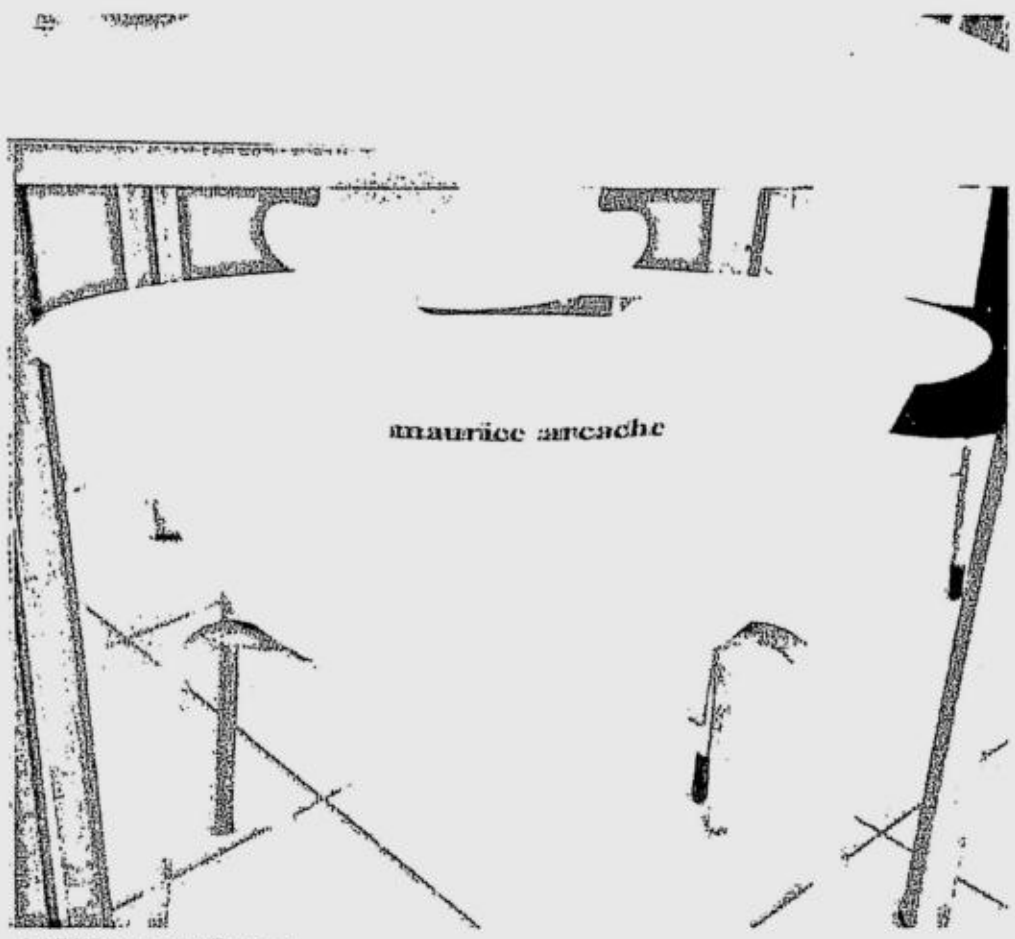
Yet he can be as weak as a lamb when he wants to, and can charm one to high heavens.

3 Let's call him Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. A brilliant lawyer, who loves everything that the good life has to offer. But when he starts conversing it's usually about how great he is and that he's a gift to men and women alike. Hint: He was a strong, aspiring politician once upon a time, *palanggas*.

4 Although we know it's mean to put a person on the list because of looks, what the heck, we are going to any way! She may be a gracious person but this lady's clothes and makeup can be seen a mile away, and she is not even at a costume party (although she loves to give one). Hint: She wants to look Imeldific, and is associated with the past administrations.

5 Sex and gossip scandals in this religious order should not be easily dismissed. These are the people who are supposed to lead us to God and not confuse us even more. There are even some of these personas I know who love to gamble, love alcohol and appear where they are not welcome and can't wait to be photographed. When you look at where they live, it is so contrary to what they preach. I guess you know who they are.

6 She is a popular working personality who can out-talk even a cockatoo parrot. Given a chance she'll even switch to French, German and broken Spanish. Whenever she walks into a place or party, you can be sure that the invitees who know her will avoid her as fast as you can say, "Where are you going?" So she usually ends up with someone new who is totally unaware of what awaits him or her.



A SEAT for *moi* at Famous

7 This young mountain climber has gotten on so many people's nerve with the way she pushes herself into everything that is happening, especially where the cream of society is sure to be present. Hint: The more provocative she dresses when she parties, the more she catches the men.

8 Although this politician has not been in circulation, whispers have come my way, that he/she may be running again, definite no-no in any event.

9 I was once stuck with this person at a cocktail party and vowed never to speak to him again. Why? I was not sure if it was the hors d' ouvres I was eating that smelled foul or that person, and it was a high-ranking ambassador. No clues, *palanggas*, lest I won't be able to get a visa to that country.

10 She is the wife of a *tres visible* politician. Wherever there is a gathering of political wives you can be sure she will push her way to be invited or, worse, gatecrash the affair with the excuse that one of the invitees brought her along. Hint: She has a well-known family name.

11 Ahh, this lady is 60-something, yet you'd swear she is a teeny-bopper with the way she dresses, talks and floats around with a constant escort. Not her husband, mind you. Hint: You can't miss her in her signature outfit.

12 This show-biz persona whose position in that realm is *tres* noticeable likes to have his photo taken with stars local and international alike and is really quite pushy. Hint: Loves to wear name brands and name-drops endlessly.

13 He is sooo high-profile but why is it that whenever he's in the room most guests feel absolutely insecure? Sometimes, this individual actually scares lots of guests to death!!

14 A stunning college beauty sadly pushes her luck too far by mixing with guests at happenings to the annoyance of the female invitees, since she usually hangs around the good-looking dudes. Hint: She usually floats around Makati's more popular hang-outs.

15 There's a new crop of writers who think it's so cool to talk about "I," "I" and nothing but "I." Who wants to know what you're drinking, what you're wearing and where you've traveled if no one knows who you are? Some of them think that since they know how to write, people will respect and follow them automatically. It has taken me years in the business to get to this point and I got here because of a lot of BST (blood, sweat and tears), *palanggas*. Not to mention a lot of humbling incidents!

JASON Amerling and birthday boy Raoul Olbes

Spotting them

Hey, wasn't that tall, good-looking **Mark Jentes** all cozy-cozy with spit-fire **Maui Pascual** at Restaurant 12 last Friday? It sure was, because the two hot-lookers were closer than ever again at Resto 12 days later.

Young, hip-hop-shot, boyish-faced **GP Reyes**, brilliant PR gent who helped in the success story of Sari-Sari, had his aperitif of vodka on the rocks at Famous, then swung over to Nuvo, leading the pack like Pied Piper. After the main course of more vodka, he dashed over to Restaurant 12 for dessert. A cool glass of Coca-Cola to get rid of all that vodka.

Who are you looking for? I asked, as he stood on the balcony railing observing the Saturday night owls below.

"My ex-girlfriend," GP replied. Well, she was nowhere in sight! He called it a day—better said, early morning—and breezed home—sober!!

Seemed like Famous, Nuvo and Restaurant 12 were the hottest spots of the weekend. Saw "Bubble Boy" of the moment, **Ipe Cruz** criss-crossing the three spots before heading off to V. In the meantime, at Famous he was getting compliments for his first article in another daily and tons of "friendly advice" on how it left a bad-taste in the mouth to other readers. Well, he was cool and took it all in stride. No choice, dahlings.

Lording it in Famous were godfathers starmaker **Joji Dingcong** and PR miracle man **Keren Pascual**, who mingled with tons of our town's classy hip-hop pack, from Woodrose, Brent, European and IS. Like **Raoul Olbes** who was celebrating his birthday; **Martina Olbes-Diokno**; **Ricio Olbes**; **Sandro Aboitiz**; **Bianca Zobel**; **Juan Miguel Delgado**; **Paulo Tantoco**; Ms Fashion Plate herself **Jenni Epperson**; **Joseph Pelaez**; **Pia Ugarte**; and **Raymond Romualdez**, plus so many others like them, too beautiful to mention.

By the bar at Nuvo were—surprise! surprise!—continental businessman of all season **Jacques Dupasquier** with his ex-wife, top female architect and interior designer with the 4 B's (beauty, brains, breeding and bucks) **Anne Sy**, having a Saturday night-out drink, Now, that's real cool.

Perky, twinkle-eyed beauty, brilliant multifaceted young **Stephanie Zubiri**, was circulating around the second level of the resto and was all excited about her coming trip to Paris to study. Stephanie was with her more-than-constant date, handsome **Martin de Guzman**, who chilled it out with their gang at their table.

At V, it was elbow room as usual, where you rub-a-dub-dub with the rich, the famous and a dash of the infamous.

Gorgeous, eye-catching Quezon City councilor **Aiko Melendez** had all eyes on her at the bar as she sipped her drink, with another Quezon City Hall hotshot **Herbert Bautista**, who was real close to her, natch!

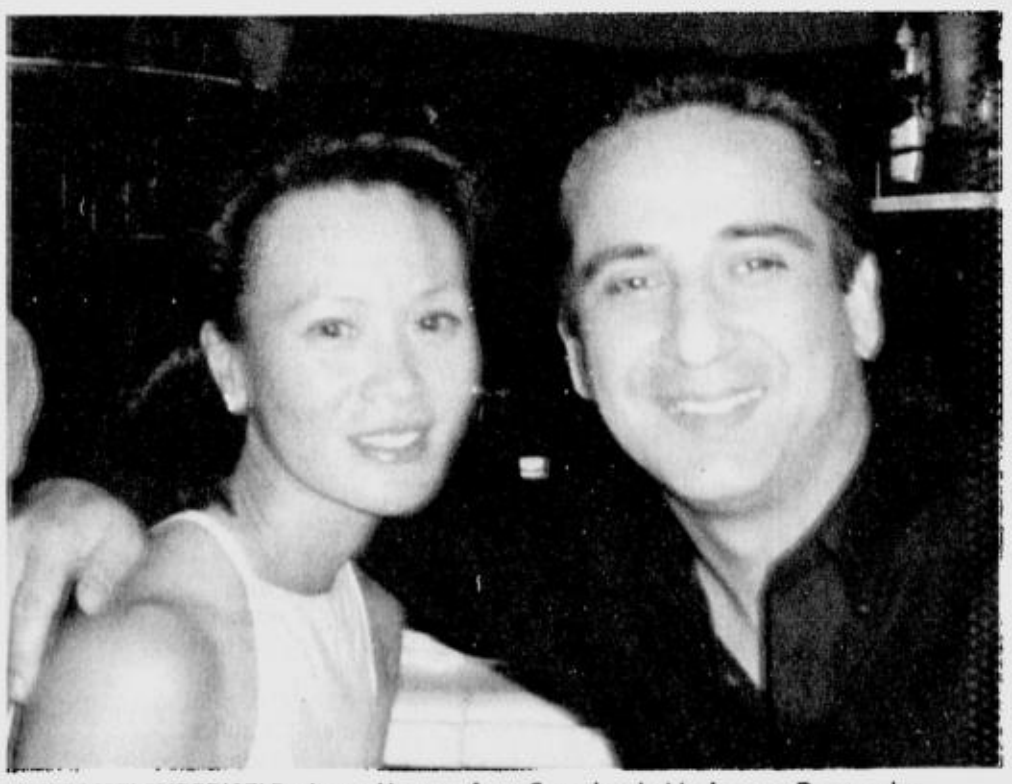
Two days later, handsome hunk, super Bench model **Jomari Yllana** was also at the bar with his pals and had all the babes' eyes on him. In fact, it looked like a queue was forming as they made sure to cozy-cozy chat with him, while he was pinned against the wall.

"After all, I'm free again, Maurice," he told *moi*.

F-R-E-E-DOM! What a nice feeling! It certainly was for Jomari Y.

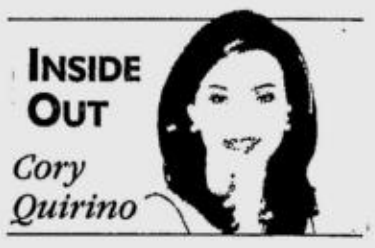
Catch you around, *palanggas*.

ROCKING godfathers of the Famous bar and resto Keren Pascual and Joji Dingcong with supermodel Sarah Meier



SURPRISE! SURPRISE! Brains and beauty Anne Sy and ex-hubby Jacques Dupasquier

Cleaning the mind, cleansing the body



INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

GOOD housekeeping begins with one's self—your body and mind. Once you have placed yourself in good order, then you can extend this sense of "all-rightness" to your physical world—your home, office, community, country.

Why? Because how you live, behave, eat and dress is a reflection of who you are.

Here are some tips from counselors and nutritionists.

Mind yourself

•Get rid of mental garbage. The original garbage dump is your mind. In it, you store many toxic substances called negative thinking like guilt, fear, anger, hostility, hatred, pettiness, jealousy. Throw them out by having an honest chat with yourself. If this may seem strange to you (although it is an effective way of reaching your subconscious), then put your negative thoughts on paper. Writing down your thoughts and feelings can help you recognize thought patterns that are destructive. For every negative thought, write down a positive one, i.e., "I'm the most cowardly person on earth but I also have redeeming qualities."

• Get busy. Staying active can prevent you from dwelling on a problem that is causing you unhappiness. Get physical. Exercise, do your household chores or office duties well.

• Take a Zen-minute break. Giving yourself time to shut off the noise can heal you.

• Smile at yourself in front of a mirror. Forcing yourself to smile at your own reflection is silly at first, but the positive disposition is contagious.

• Sometimes when human effort seems to fail you, the power of your soul will not. Connect with the divine in you and tap the healing energy that will empower and inspire you.

• Read an inspirational book.

• Pray. Just 10 minutes in the morning and before bedtime ought to keep you centered.

• Meditate. If there is one practice I would insist on, it's a meditative regimen. Close your eyes and embrace your silence. You will be surprised at the visions/inspirations you will receive.

• Know your limits. Many stressful situations are about things we can't control—traffic, taxes, other people's feelings and actions. If you are about to lose your temper or entertain thoughts of self-pity and even suicide, channel your feelings into using this wasted time more constructively.

•Keep laughing. Clip comic strips and start an album. When you feel low, flip through the pages.

Getting physical

• Get a feel of your body. Most people touch their bodíes for the purpose of doing daily regimens like bathing, brushing the teeth, combing the hair, removing makeup, etc. Why not run your hand all over your body in a gesture of connecting with your own touch? This will raise your sensitivity with the self and will make you more aware of your body's unverbalized needs/aches, pains. If you pay more attention to your body, you can prevent your own illness. Or, at least, prepare yourself in advance for its arrival and minimize its damage on your health.

• Change your eating lifestyle. Every day, add more veggies and fruits to your diet. And eat less and less of sweets.

• Move. Don't be lethargic. Lazy people get sick more often than active persons. If you don't move your body, your lymph, known as the garbage collector of the body, will not be able to do its job.

• Drink plenty of clean water and juices. Nourishing drinks can only contribute to your well-being.

Cleansing drink: If you can take 6-8 glasses of fresh *buko* juice for one day, you are assured of a great cleansing experience. Or, simply take clean, purified, distilled or mineral water.

• Have a massage. A deep-tissue therapy should not only relax you but also energize you.

• Practice belly breathing. Taught by yogis, belly breathing, once perfected guarantees you more oxygen in your system. You inhale, push the belly out (this expands the diaphragm). Exhale by sucking in and contracting your abdomen.

• Take a break from alcohol, sugar, fat and salt. Try to cut down by half your usual daily intake.

• Bathe in a tubful of salinated water. Add 1 cup of salt to a tub of hot water. Immerse yourself or pour over your body with a pail. Get a terry cloth and rub your body till it tingles.

Affirm the great in you:

Within you is a wellspring of greatness. Believe that you are blessed and the blessing will be yours according to the degree of your belief. With open arms, embrace the universe. Declare, "I embrace life in all its glory."

Love and light!

If you pay more attention to your body, you can prevent your own illness

ILLUSTRATION. ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Help from nature's herbs

POOR dietary habits, stress, pollution and varying environmental conditions all contribute to the weakening of the body's immune system, making people vulnerable to diseases such as colds, flu, coughs, upper respiratory tract infections and viral conditions.

Fortunately, nature has provided us with natural ingredients that help boost the immune system. Some of the world's best known herbal preparations used for centuries include:

Andographis paniculata (Sinta) is one of the most potent immune enhancers available due to its high bitter content. Popularly known as the "king of bitter herbs," this herb was used in ancient Ayurvedic practices in India as a natural treatment for fever, diarrhea, dysentery, malaria and liver disorder.

Vitex negundo (Lagundi) provides relief from repiratory ailments such as asthma, bronchitis, fever, sore throat, coughs and colds, and sinusitis. Lagundi is also used as a potent expectorant for getting rid of irritating phlegm.

Moringa oleifera (Malunggay), one of the World Health Organization's most important plants in the world, is used for its antiviral, antioxidant, antitumor and anti-inflammatory properties.

Momordia charantia (Ampalaya), with phyto-insulin, helps stabilize glucose levels in the blood, aside from its numerous health benefits, and is popularly known in treating

the condition of diabetes.

Curcuma longa (Luyang Dilaw) helps lower cholesterol and increases quantity and motility of male sperm cells. It is also known as a very strong antiseptic, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, bile stimulant, with excellent anti-cancer property and is known to be good for hypertension.

Centella asiatica (Takip kuhol), popularly known as Gotu Kola extract, has an anabolic effect that works on muscle-building and promotes strengthening of the immune system. As a popular anti-viral agent, it also promotes healthy collagen matrix in the skin as it helps strengthen the arteries and veins. Centella also helps in promoting blood circulation and is clinically proven to enhance memory levels.

All of the following potent ingredients have been standardized and is available commercially as BIO-Bitter Aid, a purified potency fortified concentrate of these natural raw herbs, providing maximum therapeutic benefits.

Manufactured and distributed by ROEHR nature + science, the most trusted name in natural medicines formulation. Call 638-1692 to 93 or e-mail WeCare@wroehr.com or consulty your nearest ROEHR DynaComp distributor.

New magazine aims to empower women

THERE'S a new magazine for women who have been so caught up in the hustle and bustle of caring for the family that they've almost forgotten to care for themselves.

Me magazine wishes to help every woman find and nurture herself. It's packed with self-help stories that will make women think, move them to action, and make them better persons.

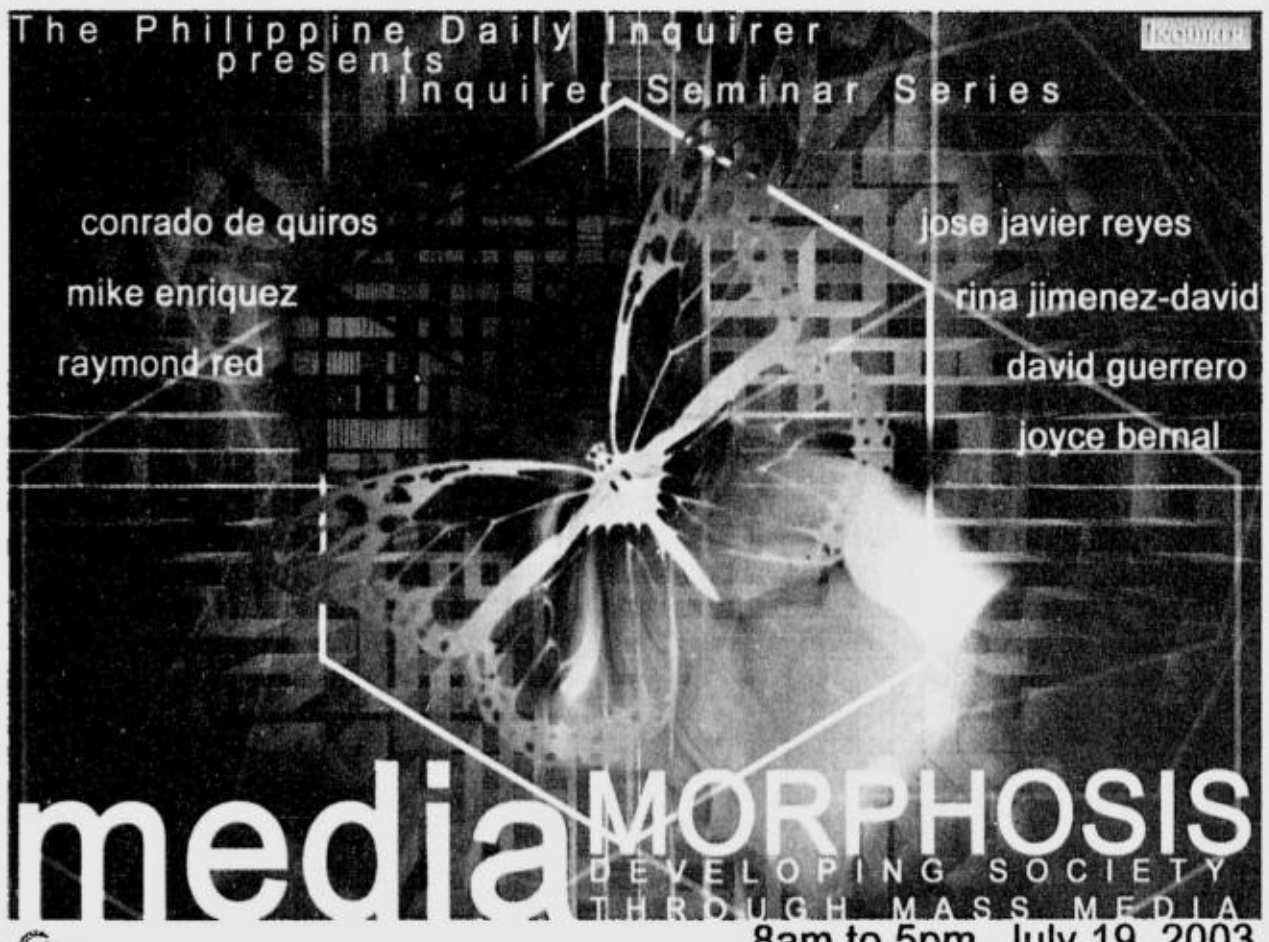
"There are a lot of women who need to empower themselves," says Me editor in chief Cathy Babao Guballa.

"Women are being run down by their responsibilities as wife and mother. Your role shouldn't define who you are because even before you got married, you already had interests and gifts. That's why we came up with Me so that women can look deeper into themselves, harness these gifts and pursue their dreams."

Me magazine will offer articles and stories on fashion, beauty, health and fitness, parenting, fun, food and the home.

The magazine's maiden issue has features on Lucy Torres-Gomez, Judy Ann Santos, Mel Tiangco and other interesting women who are in the prime of their lives.

Me magazine is published by Mega Magazines and Publications Inc. Now available in leading bookstores and newsstands nationwide for P100.



8am to 5pm. July 19, 2003
[Registration starts at 7am]
Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium
RCBC Towers, Makati City
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Paolo Bediones & Rhea Santos

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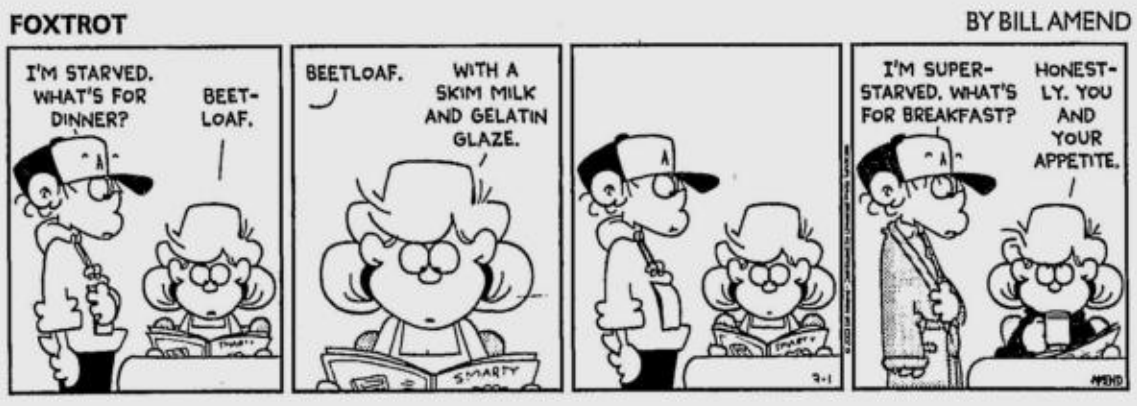
MECHANICS:
[1] Please secure an application form through any of the following:
(a) visit the website at www.inquirerseminarseries.com, or;
(b) send your email address through text at 0917-5269887, or;
(c) send your email address to mediamorphosis2003@yahoo.com, or;
(d) brochures from PDI Classified Ads office at 5th Floor, SM Megamall Bldg B, Mandaluyong City or from participating schools.
[2] Submit your application form through any of the means specified in the instructions.
[3] Pay the registration fee: 200 as an early bird discount if paid ON or BEFORE July 4, 2003, and 250 if paid ON July 19, 2003. This applies for applicants in the Metro Manila Area Only. Details of HOW, WHERE, and WHEN applicants may pay the registration fee will follow upon receipt of the application form.
[4] FOR THOSE OUTSIDE THE METRO MANILA AREA, the registration fee will still be 200 to be paid on July 19, 2003 provided that the application form is submitted ON OR BEFORE July 4, 2003.

FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG

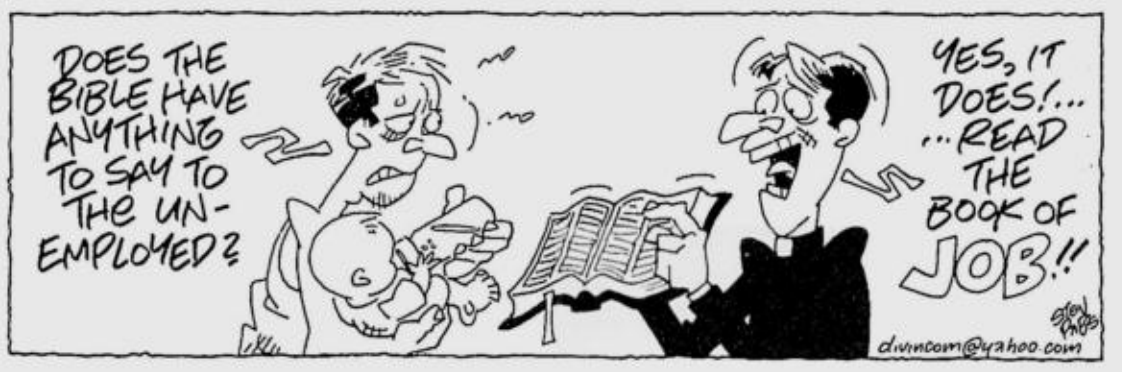
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are sensitive and generous. You value home and family as well as your career. You see many points of view; however, you are committed to your cause, whatever it is. Your determination and dedication to what you believe in helps you to function successfully in the world. Work hard for what you want this year.
Birthdate of: Pamela Anderson, actress; Princess Diana, British royal; Liv Tyler, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): When it comes to family matters, you're prepared to speak your mind today. Nevertheless, although you want to let people know what you think about something, it's not worth starting a fight.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a wonderful day to accomplish anything that requires determined mental activity. You can tackle difficult problems with great success. Go to it!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel unusually bold about financial matters and things connected with your work today. You know that others are listening to you. This is because you believe in yourself.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is an excellent day for public speaking and for stating your opinions. Your confidence shows, and others will readily go along with what you propose. This makes you powerful.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is an excellent day for private, even secretive research. You could uncover material that is useful to you in the future. Make decisions about joint property.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Discussions with partners and friends are lively today! If you need to persuade somebody about anything, now is the time to do it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a good day to ask for a raise or promotion, because your ability to present your case is strong. You easily speak with positive strength and confidence.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You are especially successful with matters dealing with publishing, the arts, higher education and foreign countries. You see immediately what needs to be done. (Bravo.)

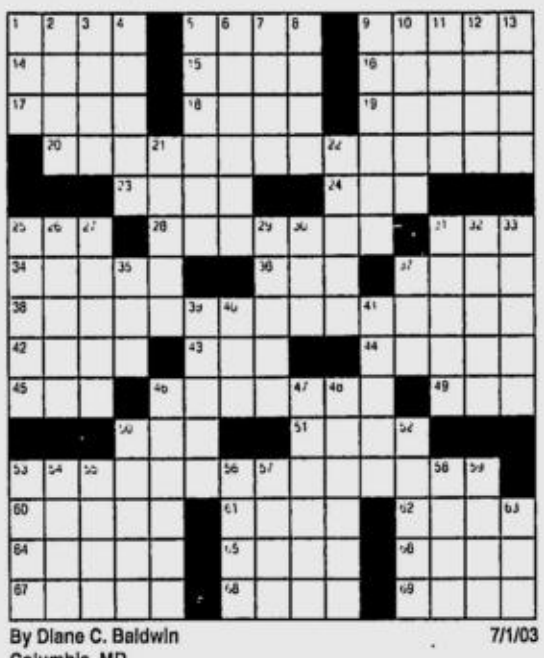
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Now is the time to defend your own best interests with respect to shared property and the joint ownership of anything. You will be able to stand your ground.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your ability to sell, persuade, convince and teach others is spectacular today. Do not hesitate to present your views to the public. Everyone is all ears.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You are so efficient and determined, you can accomplish a great deal at work today. Your mind is like a steel trap. And you're not afraid to use it.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good day for financial speculation. No matter what kind of negotiations you are involved in, you won't hesitate to get to the heart of the matter. Trust your instincts.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD
7/1/03

ACROSS
1 Cutting criticism
5 Collars
9 Shakes off
14 Nebraska neighbor
15 Out of port, but not wine
16 Roman senate
17 In a jiff
18 Men only
19 Out of kilter
20 Delighted
23 Paparazzi prey
24 Cock and bull
25 Jump-shot's path
28 Female kinfolk
31 Arena official
34 True blue
36 Shoshone
37 Vijay Singh's homeland
38 Ecstatic
42 Raines of old films
43 Grant of Hollywood
44 Person from Prague
45 Deli bread
46 Dog without a bark
49 Porker's pad
50 Decorative vase
51 Top-notch
53 Elated
60 Baker or Ekberg
61 Valhalla honcho
62 Etc.'s cousin
64 Kick off
65 Seemingly forever?
66 Make well
67 Synagogue scroll
68 Say it isn't so
69 Trace of color

DOWN
1 Palindromic sib
2 Bow part
3 GI on the lam
4 Leonine locks
5 Bahamas capital
6 Away from the bow
7 Droplet
8 Heroic recounting
9 Land and sea endings
10 Soil component
11 Julia Roberts movie, "__ Brockovich"
12 Blade of a harrow
13 Pageant band
21 In any way
22 Fleeced flock
25 Do some tailoring
26 Seething
27 Trike or bike
29 Private student
30 Simpson trial judge
31 Chops very fine
32 Boot out
33 Suspect
35 Police file abbr.
37 Moroccan city
39 African antelope
40 __ Plaines, IL
41 Cake cover
46 Save your ___!
47 Country
48 Stage Door _
50 Extreme
52 Vote in
53 Snappy
54 Enthralled by
55 Pants-on-fire chap
56 Blue dye
57 __ fixe (obsession)
58 Pin box
59 Pull down
63 Net-judge's shout

Monday's Puzzle Solved

A	S	A	P		U	P	O	N		P	O	P	P	A
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D	U	M	A		T	A	C	O		P	E	W	E	E
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T	R	O	T	H		B	R	A	T		E	S	S	E

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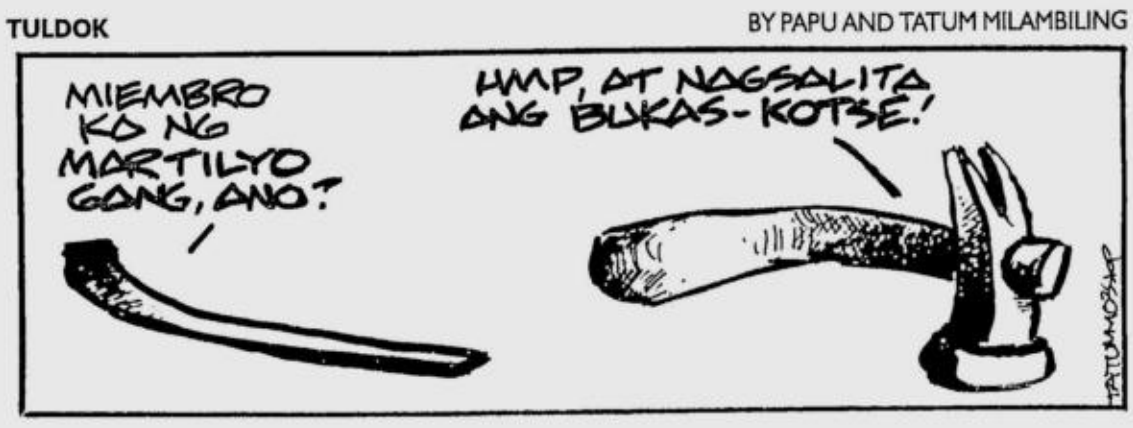
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Japanese women never keener on ideal of pale-faced beauty

TOKYO—Summer's here and it's time to cover up. With their sun hats, ultraviolet (UV)-filtering parasols, sun creams and skin whitening lotions, Japanese women are keener than ever to adhere to the traditional Asian concept of white-skinned beauty.

The sun has set on the short-lived era of the *ganguro* (literally "black faces")—young women with deeply tanned complexions and heavy makeup—often seen in the capital's trendy Shibuya district. Instead the fashion among most women is to be as pale-skinned as possible.

After office hours on a recent evening, the umbrella section of the Mitsukoshi department store in the heart of the glitzy Ginza district was packed with young women.

"Over the last three years, we've noticed a marked increase in purchases [of parasols] by young women aged between 20 and 30," section manager, Tomoyasu Muto told AFP.

The Japanese umbrella market is now worth 20 billion yen ($169 million) a year, according to industry figures.

While all the parasols sold by Mitsukoshi are billed as able to provide UV protection and television weather forecasts include UV levels, "our customers are actually more worried about the beauty of their skin than concerned about their health and the risks associated with too much exposure to the sun," said Muto.

With her diamond jewelry, fashionably elegant clothes and her beautifully manicured hands, Makiko Yamamoto is a typical, affluent urban housewife.

"When I go to the beach, I use total sunblock, and when the sun is too strong, I cover up completely to go out. I haven't had a tan for seven years, I'm too old for that," said the fair-skinned, slender woman who does not look her 39 years.

Like Yamamoto, other women shoppers professed themselves terrified of the risk of dark patches appearing on their skin, which signifies ageing to them, quoting the old saying: "a white face hides seven defects." Outside Mitsukoshi, talking on her mobile phone, 51 year-old Kyoko Fukumura's red lips and kimono worn so as to expose the white nape of her neck are the telltale signs of her profession as a geisha in the hot-spring resort town of Hakone, near Mount Fuji.

"I forgot my parasol, which was a big mistake because the sun is strong today. Naturally, as a geisha, I've always tried to keep my skin white," Fukumura said.

French fashion and beauty consultant Francoise Morechand, who first came to Japan in the 1960s, agreed there is a tendency among women to have as pale a complexion as possible.

"The cosmetics companies became interested in "whitening" products about seven years ago—first the Japanese companies that grabbed the wider Asian market for them, then the foreign companies like Lancome, Estee Lauder and Helena Rubenstein.

"Today, there isn't a single company which does not have skin whitening products aimed at the Asian markets," she said.

"White skin has always had an important connotation [in Japan] because it shows that you are not a laborer or a peasant. On top of that, just as elsewhere in Asia, the best compliment you can pay a woman is to tell her that her face is like the moon." According to Morechand, in the collective Japanese imagination, the moon's characteristics of roundness and paleness symbolize a particular kind of fragility, "a touching and alluring weakness," which Japanese women know will appeal to their boss or husband.

In the 1960s, leading Japanese cosmetics company Shiseido became the first to launch a vitamin C-based product to lighten the complexion, but it was only towards the end of the 1990s that it began to expand its whitening product range.

"Even the youngest customers dream of having skin the color of [the outside of] a hard-boiled egg: shining white," said Masami Kumaki, who is in charge of training saleswomen for Shiseido.

Sales of skin whitening products in Asia grew by 20 percent between 1997 and 2002 and accounted for 23 percent of the company's total sales in the region, said Shiseido official Toshiaki Igeta. Sales of sunscreen creams jumped by 52 percent.

"Women in Singapore or Taiwan, where I've worked, want to have skin as beautiful as the Japanese. They don't just want white skin, but translucent, almost transparent skin," Igeta said.

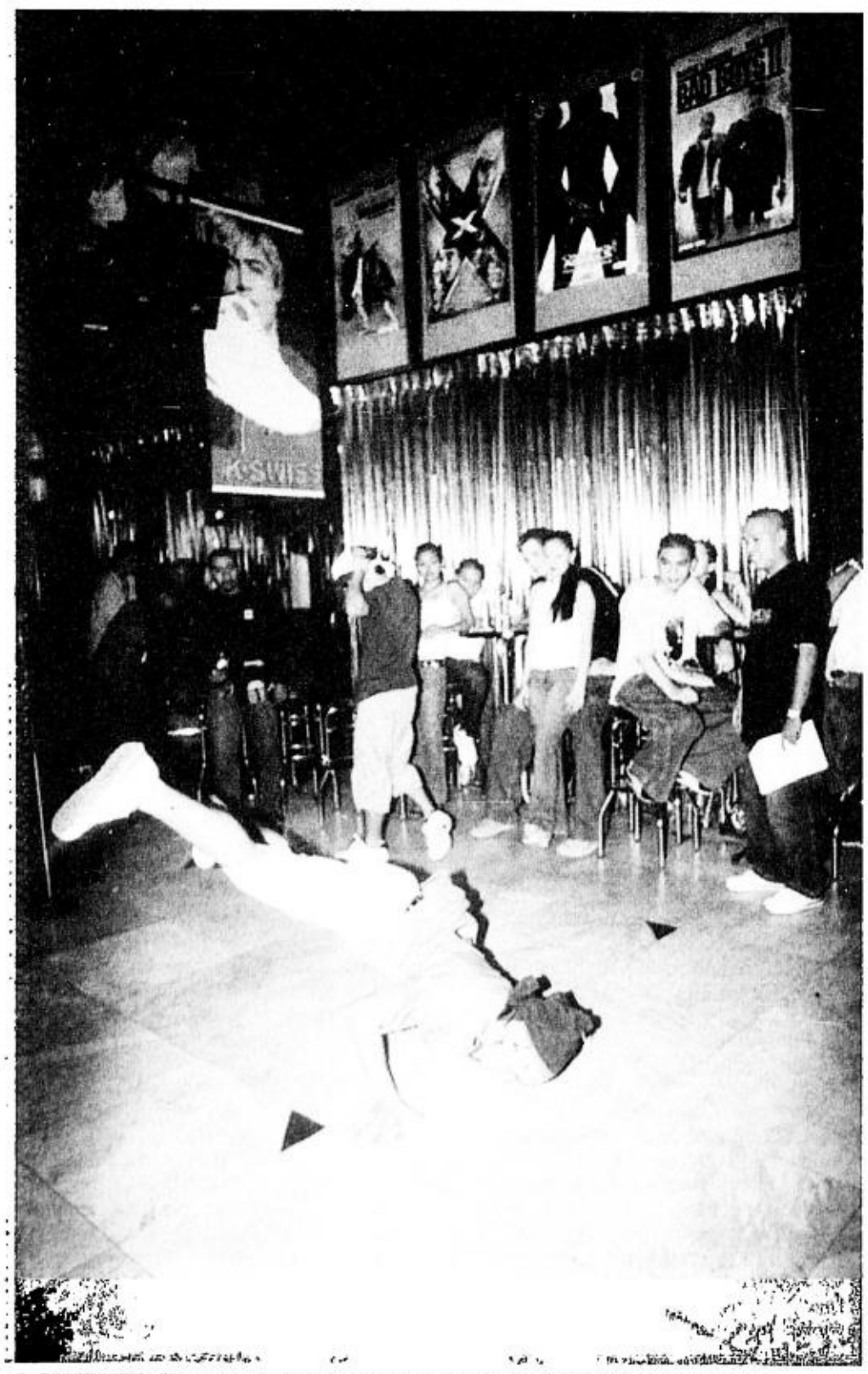
"In East Asia the sun's rays are very strong, that's why they want Japanese products."

AFP

A JAPANESE woman uses an umbrella to avoid ultraviolet rays as she walks on the street in downtown Tokyo. PHOTOS: AFP

They want to keep their skin white, translucent and beautiful, the envy of Asians

Party launches new athletic footwear collection



A CONTESTANT eagerly displays his dancing prowess in the hip-hop dance contest.

K-SWISS, a leading name in athletic footwear, unveiled recently its latest collection at Club V, Makati City.

Called the K-Swiss Tongue Twister, the collection featured updated, more prominent cool insignias of five stripes and K-Swiss logo, and a patented reversible tongue technology that revealed a dual-color reversible flap by simply twisting the shoe's tongue. Most Tongue Twister shoes have the revolutionary shock spring technology providing utmost total support, protection and comfort from heel to toe.

Global Brands officials treated guests to a night of hip-hop music, food and drinks, fun and entertainment, games and prizes, and a preview of Tongue Twister products showing their versatility, which was produced by MTV Philippines.

The Tongue Twister collection comes in four different styles—Nido, Super V, ST345, and SP249. They are available in white, navy and ice; white and classic blue, white, red and black, and white and silver; white and navy; and white, navy and silver, respectively.

GLOBAL Brands vice president for marketing May Carla Pastor shows the reversible tongue of K-Swiss Tongue Twister.

PIKASO in a special song number.

The fidget factor in weight control

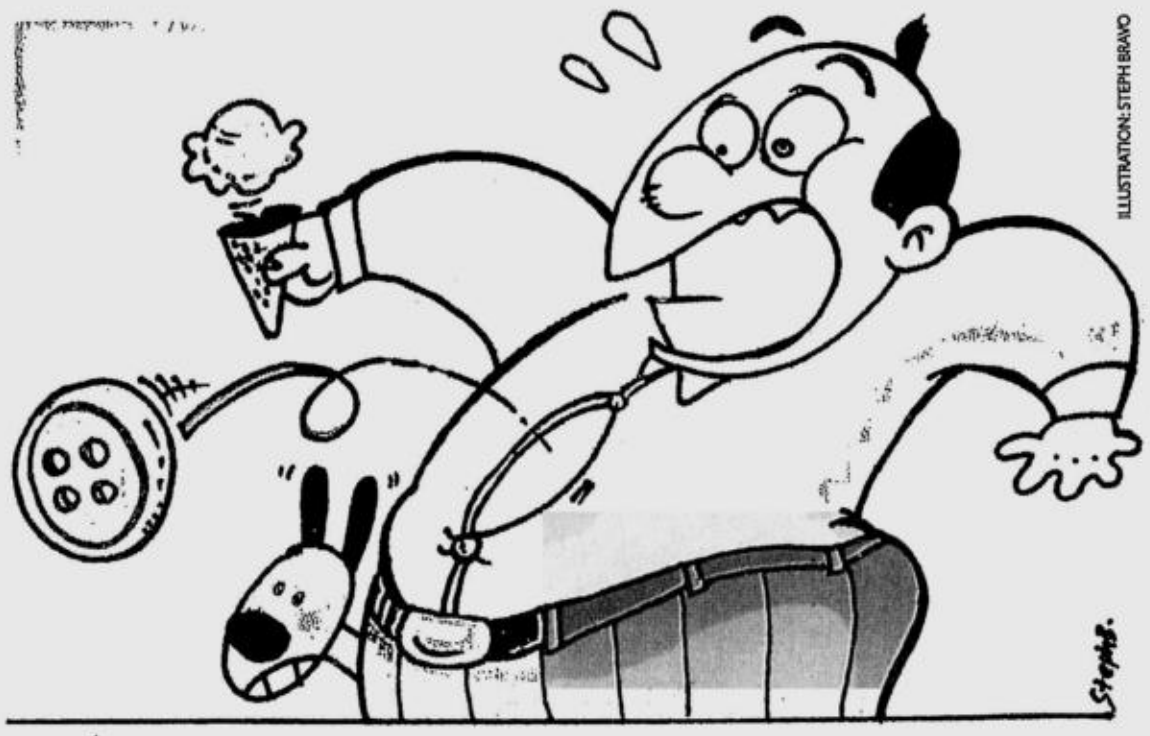


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Crossing and uncrossing your legs, tapping your toes and jiggling your leg have their benefits

SOMEONE in my aerobics class can eat whatever she wants and not gain weight. She exercises religiously like all her gym friends but the difference is she can eat high-calorie food all day long while her classmates, myself included, have to watch what they eat. If she weren't so darn nice, we would all hate her.

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

I know someone else who eats ice cream and chocolates every day and does not exercise. He isn't skinny but he isn't fat either. If I ate what he did, I would easily be 10 pounds overweight despite working out every day.

If you have to sweat it out and count your calories to maintain your weight, you must be wondering what secret formula these people have to get away with eating so much without putting on the pounds.

Exercise scientists have been asking the same question and one of the answers they found is that people who can eat a lot without gaining much weight despite not exercising are usually "fidgeters."

Spontaneous movement

Fidgeting is a spontaneous physical activity or movement made without thinking. Examples are crossing and uncrossing the legs, toe tapping and leg jiggling.

Metabolism expert Dr. Eric Ravussin did an experiment by placing participants inside a "calorie-measuring" room that contained motion detectors to monitor how much movement they made. He found that there were big differences in the way people performed an everyday activity like watching television. Some participants sat as still as statues without moving a muscle. Others changed their position every so often. There were also those who kept getting up and moving around the room. Ravussin estimated that the fidget factor burned up 300-800 calories a day.

In another experiment at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, researchers James Levine and Norman Eberhardt found that people who fidgeted while seated burn 40-60 more calories compared to people who sit motionless. Fidgeters burn 70-100 calories more per hour when they stand compared to more laid-back people who stand still.

To find out how much of a role fidgeting plays in weight gain, Levine and his team fed 16 normal weight sedentary men and women an extra 1,000 calories a day for two months. The participants gained between 2 to 16 pounds. The ones who gained the least were the one who did the most fidgeting.

Genetic

What makes one person a fidgeter and another person a non-fidgeter? It seems that this tendency is controlled by your genes. Ravussin noted that fidgeting and restlessness ran in families.

Fidgeting is "non-volitional movement." It is done spontaneously and without your realizing it. But even though you cannot force yourself to become a fidgeter, you can still learn a thing or two from these hyperactive people by consciously trying to be more active.

When talking on your cordless phone or cell phone, walk around instead of sitting down. You'll burn 35 to 50 calories in 10 minutes.

If you sit down while you watch TV, you burn 72 calories an hour, but if you do light housework while you are watching, you can burn between 144-216 calories.

If you do exercises like abdominal crunches and leg lifts during the commercial breaks, you will tone your muscles and burn about 65 calories in one hour (assuming there are 16 minutes worth of ads in a one-hour TV show).

Instead of parking your car or being dropped off at the mall entrance closest to the store you want to go to, try doing the opposite. Enter the mall through the farthest entrance. Even if you just walk at a strolling pace, you will burn 3.5 calories for every additional minute it takes you to get to and from your destination. That may not seem like much, but if you can accumulate an hour's worth of strolling, you can burn an extra 206 calories daily. If you walk at a fast pace, you can increase this to 270-360 calories per hour.

Burning calories

By taking the stairs instead of the elevator, you burn 8 calories a minute. If you live in a multilevel house or work in a building, take advantage and use the stairs as often as possible. You can burn as many calories as doing a 30-minute step aerobics or kickboxing class.

If you have no time to exercise at home or in a gym, consciously looking for ways to become more physically active can help you keep your weight down. And even if you are involved in an exercise program, a "burn 'em up active lifestyle is more effective than just exercise alone," according to nutritionist Gay Riley of NetNutritionist.com.

Riley compared the calorie difference in the lifestyles of a person who is sedentary and works out and a person who is active and works out. In an eight-hour period, the sedentary exerciser burned 914 calories while the active exerciser burned 1,436 calories. The difference is that the active exerciser burned additional calories by taking the stairs, walking to do errands, housework and watched less TV.

So even if you are not a natural-born fidgeter like the people I mentioned above, you can still burn more calories by keeping in mind the advice of Frank Butterfield of the American Council of Exercise: "Sitting up is better than lying down, standing is better than sitting up, and walking is better than standing."

For past articles and exercises or suggestions for future topics, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com

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MALATE ☎ 521.8143	SERSIDE ICE KENDI	NO ENTRANCE FEE
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BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268	FAT 16 HEADWORKZ	NO ENTRANCE FEE
	TIA MARIA'S	
JUPITER ☎ 890.4735	0 2 7 VERSE 2	NO ENTRANCE FEE
REMEDIOS ☎ 522.0429	RHYTHM ACE 3RD MOVEMENT	NO ENTRANCE FEE
TOMAS MORATO ☎ 371.1473	BRIDGES	NO ENTRANCE FEE

JULY 01 TUESDAY 422-9877

Second run of meditation classes

MANILA'S Pure Yoga studio at Mandarin Oriental is staging a second run of its basic meditation program on July 7 to Aug. 2.

Prakash Singh Bisht, the hotel's resident yogi, conducts the series of courses on purifying one's mind through breathing exercises.

The hotel's meditation program will be conducted in two batches: July 7 to 19, and July 21 to Aug. 2. Enrollees may choose from either the 9-10 a.m. class or 8:30-9:30 p.m. class every Monday, Wednesday and Friday; or alternatively, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

A full course consists of six one-hour sessions. Each session will accept a minimum of three and a maximum of 12 students.

Last day of registration for the first batch is on July 4. The basic meditation course complements the general yoga classes conducted at the Pure Yoga studio at 7 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Monday to Saturday.

Call 750-8888 local 2105.

Lecture/exhibit on diabetes and body fat

HEALTH From Earth Philippines will host a lecture and exhibit on diabetes and body fat on July 5, 4-8 p.m. at Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall.

Special guest will be Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit.

While attendance is strictly by reservation only, a few free seats can still be claimed by calling the HFE Life Support hotline at 843-9848, 660-2290 or 0916-3050010.

Rx Take Charge Doc! MEDICard

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

What are the advantages of having a MEDICard HMO plan?

There are a number of advantages when you are a MEDICard planholder. In general they are:

- MEDICard's HMO plan covers that "all important" hospital deposit during confinements
- Provides outright coverage on medical availments (subject to contract provisions) in accredited medical facilities. No need for members to file reimbursement or make a co-payment
- Has preventive healthcare services like Annual Physical Examination (APE) incorporated in its program, thereby providing members avenue for early diagnosis and treatment of illnesses
- Maintains one of the largest network of accredited hospitals, doctors and specialists, and dentists--guaranteeing members access to medical services whenever necessary

These and more are what make up the advantages of having a MEDICard HMO plan.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Members may seek the services of **Dr. Maria Doreen J. Ambrosio**, our accredited medical provider at World Citi Medical Center in Quezon City. Dr. Ambrosio is a recent addition to our medical service team but has been in her field for more than seven years now. She finished Medicine at UST then later chose to take residency training for Internal Medicine at the Medical City. She also subspecializes in Pulmonary Medicine which she finished at the Lung Center for Asia. Like everyone else, Doc Maria takes time to unwind and does this by taking time to enjoy her hobbies of dancing, playing volleyball and watching movies. For consultations, members may visit her clinic at Room 219, Mondays to Saturdays from 10 AM to 12 noon.

New Corporate Member

FCC PHILIPPINES CORPORATION, the world leader in automotive clutch technology, signed last June 26 at the Peking Garden Restaurant in Makati City its healthcare agreement with MEDICard. Present were (seated L-R) Luis Montoya (MEDICard EVP & GM), Dr. Nicanor Montoya (MEDICard Pres.), Vicente Fabro (FCC Admin. Mngr.) and Ofelia Refugio (MEDICard Account Exec.). Also present were (standing L-R) MEDICard's Voltaire Victoria (Mktg. & Sales Mngr.), Marilyn Ortego (Corp. Accounts Mngr.) & Julian Ortego Jr. (Account Mngr.)

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 818-2161. For group or corporate membership, dial 812-8360, 817-5136 or 817-4985 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

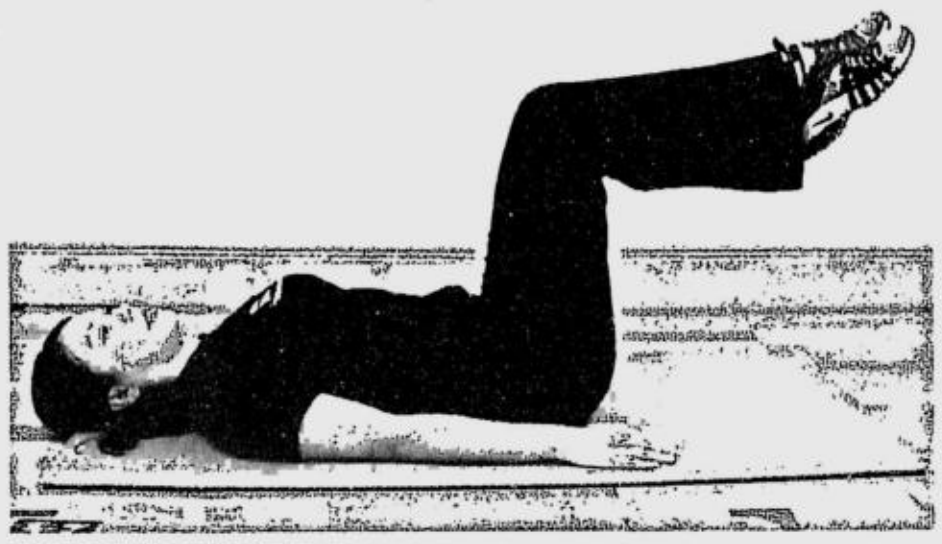
TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

BVQI ISO 9002

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Bent single leg lower and raise



TIGHTENS and tones abdominal muscles as well as the muscles in front of the thigh.

Equipment:
Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. Lie on your back with your legs bent and raised over your hips.
2. Tighten your abdominal muscles as you lower one leg.
3. Touch the mat with your toes, then raise the leg back to starting position.
4. Repeat on the other leg.

Performance tips:

1. Do not allow your lower back to arch off the floor while you are lowering your legs. Maintain a certain amount of tightness and contraction in your abdominal muscles to prevent your lower back from excessively arching and flattening as you do the exercise.
2. The goal of the exercise is to keep your torso and abdominal muscles stabilized while you lower and raise your legs.
3. Move your legs slowly and deliberately to get the most out of the exercise.
4. Inhale as you lower your legs; exhale as you raise them.
5. This is an appropriate exercise for beginners.

Repetitions:
Do 10 repetitions alternating from one leg to the other.